

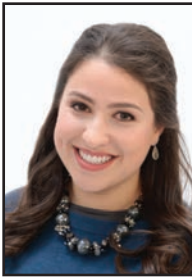
MY VIEW

## The Rich Life

BY LEAH MEYER

“If you want to feel rich, think of all the things you have that money can’t buy.”

Bais Yaakov has made me feel rich. It is astounding to think of how much BYD has provided for me over the past four years. I’ve gained skills and knowledge that I could never have dreamed of achieving.



I am so privileged to have spent these formative years in a school that is above and beyond, in every way. The academic level is high, but it is balanced with many extracurricular activities that create a fun, cheerful atmosphere. It is not unusual for music to be played during breaks and for there to be spontaneous dancing in the hallways.

The love and care that the teachers and administration show toward each student is exceptional. With their vast knowledge, they bring so many new and interesting ideas into their classes. Teachers invite students into their homes for study sessions, Shabbos meals and Shabbos afternoon classes. When I speak to my friends from other cities, it becomes apparent that this type of teacher-student relationship is not typical, and it is something for which I am extremely grateful.

These qualities, among many others, contribute to a “rich” feeling for the fortunate students of BYD. As I move on in life, I am definitely going to miss walking into the welcoming building every day, the building that I am proud to call my home away from home.

*Leah Meyer is a 2017 BYD graduate.*

## 100 Years of Bais Yaakov

## 50 Years of Beth Jacob High School of Denver

BY BYD STAFF

*Thousands of Jewish homes*

*Tens of thousands of Jewish children*

*Proud Jewish women who are passionate about Yiddishkeit*

*Community leaders*

*Professionals*

These are but a few of the fruits of Beth Jacob High School’s past fifty years of superior Torah and secular education for young Jewish women.

The year 2017 marks a full century since the legendary Sarah Schenirer originally founded the Bais Yaakov movement in Krakow, Poland – the movement that saved the sanctity of vibrant Jewish life and that laid the foundation for the explosive growth of the Torah world that we see today.

Yet 2017 marks another milestone as well, a milestone for a unique branch among the Bais Yaakov movement’s many branches: a half-century of Beth Jacob High School of Denver. Under the leadership of Rabbi and Mrs. Myer J. Schwab, the school has become a vital component for regional, national and international communities. Students have come to BYD not only from all corners of



the U.S., but also from Canada, Mexico, Panama, Costa Rica, Australia, Italy, the Philippines, South Africa, Switzerland, the former Soviet Union, and Israel. It steps into its second half-century as a warm environment that is both a home and source of inspiration, one that provides a wholesome out-of-town Torah education, preparing its students to live empowered Torah lives.

Throughout this Jubilee year, Beth Jacob High School of Denver will celebrate the vitality of its Torah education for young women and how it has ensured the promise of a Jewish future to many. These accomplishments will be celebrated through numerous events.

In December, an alumnae event is scheduled to take place in New York. The event is being organized by an alumnae

committee comprised of nine ambassadors networking to reach every graduate from the past forty-seven graduating classes. The large reunion will bring together past teachers, counselors and students, and will revive their connections to one another.

On Sunday, January 15, a city-wide event will be held in Denver to celebrate this great milestone. The Jubilee Dinner will honor Rabbi and Mrs. Schwab as the educational founders of the school, as well as visionaries and builders of the Torah community in Denver. In addition to a half-century of educating and guiding young women, the Schwabs were pioneers in many community-building endeavors, most notably their founding of the Denver Community Kollel.

For fifty years thousands of young Jewish women have spent the most formative years of their lives in the warm, nurturing environment of Beth Jacob High School of Denver. It is there that they experienced exponential growth in their Yiddishkeit, self-development and academic achievement. Within those walls they have discovered and developed their own unique latent talents. They have made and cemented life-long relationships with their teachers and peers, and have created sweet memories through the numerous extra-curricular activities.

Stay tuned for details as we celebrate a half-century of Torah-true education for young women in the West.

NON-PROFIT ORG.  
U.S. POSTAGE PAID  
DENVER, CO  
PERMIT NO. 5286

Beth Jacob High School of Denver  
5100 West 14th Avenue  
Denver, CO 80204-1004



Class of 2017: (back row l. to r.) Mrs. Chaya Meyer, Chaya Wasserman, Elisheva Major, Leah Meyer, Esther Malka Heisler, Devora Tzilya El, Arie Cohen, Simcha Baxman, Chana Steinharter, Carmielle Bean, Miryam Major, Faigy Berkowitz, Shira Freedman, Liora Kohanteb, Chaya Zisi Krausz, Mrs. Esther Melamed. (front row l. to r.) Rabbi Aron Yehuda Schwab, Rabbi Yechiel Erlanger, Mrs. Esti Erlanger, Mrs. Bruria Schwab, Rabbi Myer Schwab, Mr. Feivel Gallard, Mrs. Cindy Gallard and Mrs. Aliza Chernitzky.

## INSIDE

- Alumna Profile.....2
- Mazel Tovs.....2
- Profile .....3
- Yom Iyun .....3
- Dean’s List.....4
- Recipe Corner....4
- From the Desk of.....4
- Where Are They Now?.....4

# “The work I do goes beyond actual cosmetology.”

## Meet Rochel Leah (Feder) Dubovick of Jerusalem

BY TALYA SCHREIBER AND RACHEL BADALOV

It has often been said that those who attend Bais Yaakov of Denver are not merely students; rather, they become part of one big family. This statement certainly holds true for Rochel Leah (Feder) Dubovick, whose family and Bais Yaakov ties are strongly interlinked.

In addition to being a 1993 Bais Yaakov graduate, Rochel Leah holds the title of being the first second-generation BYD student, as she is the daughter of 1973 BYD graduate Celia (Lewitt) Feder. “I remember the look of pride Rabbi Schwab had in his eyes as I walked into his office for my interview,” recalls Rochel Leah. “He made me feel like it was his privilege to have me as his student, especially since my mother was a graduate of BYD.”

Rochel Leah’s family connection to Bais Yaakov runs even deeper, as her grandparents, the late Manny and Molly Feder, a”h, were cofounders of the school. Manny and Molly’s daughter, Goldie, was one of the first eight students who attended BYD.

Rochel Leah was born in Binghamton, NY, and grew up in Denver.



Rochel Leah Dubovick: “Bais Yaakov infused us with such a warmth for Yiddishkeit.”

In her younger years she often heard stories about BYD. When she entered ninth grade, she says, she felt like she was being welcomed by family.

“Rochel Leah recently became a grandmother, and Celia a great-grandmother,” says Rabbi Schwab. “That makes us great-great grandparents for the first time!”

The high school years can often be challenging for many teens. “During those years I was trying to get to know myself and find my own path. I definitely had a lot of personality and sometimes tested my boundaries,” reflects Rochel Leah.

“Bais Yaakov gently encouraged me along my own path and allowed me to grow at my own pace. I never felt negative vibes from the teachers or administration. They seemed to watch over me with unconditional love as I grew into myself. I felt valued, and I also felt that the administration and teachers believed in me and took great pride in me and in my fellow students.”

Rochel Leah was very active throughout her years in Bais Yaakov. She served on the student council and was editor of the Batya and head of the dance committee. After graduating as salutatorian of her class, she attended Bnos Chavah Seminary. She studied cosmetology in Denver, then married and moved to Har Nof, Yerushalayim.

Today Rochel Leah lives in Ramat Beit Shemesh with her husband, Ephraim, and their children. Her husband serves as an administrator in Rabbi Yaakov Friedman’s yeshivah in Beitar, Yeshivas Birkas Mordechai, where he learned in kollel for many years. “Mrs. Schwab instilled in us a yearning and a love for Eretz Yisrael,” says Rochel Leah. “I am blessed to live here. Bais Yaakov also infused us with such a warmth for Yiddishkeit. I carried that warmth forward as I built my own home.”

Rochel Leah juggles many roles as wife, mother, grandmother, businesswoman, and active community member. She manages her multiple roles with grace and gratitude to Hashem.

Rochel Leah is the owner of a growing cosmetology practice, where she implements many of the skills and lessons that she learned in Bais Yaakov on a daily basis. “The actual work I do goes way beyond the actual cosmetology,” explains Rochel Leah. “I work with many different women from varied backgrounds, ages and stages of life. Many clients open up and confide in me about their life struggles and challenges. I feel very strongly that my Bais Yaakov years gave me the tools with which to guide and help these women.

“In high school I was given such clarity about and *simchah* for Yiddishkeit. It was such a healthy, normal, warm and accepting environment. We were also taught a deep appreciation for the beauty of and pride in our role as Jewish women. These are all ideals that I try to give over to my clients.

“Bais Yaakov literally shaped my life, and for that I have tremendous gratitude.”

*Rachel Badalov is from Phoenix, AZ. Talya Schreiber is a Denver native. Both are juniors at BJHS.*

## Alumnae and Staff Mazel Tovs

### BIRTHS:

Sara Bluma Sommers Holzer-girl

Adina Kotzen Kaplan- grandson Menashe

Celia Lewit Feder-great grandson

Rochel Leah Feder Dubovick-grandson

Adi Halton Aisenstark- girl

Eliana Schreiber- Emunah Sara

Aviva Burstein Cohen- grandson

Chana Schwab Elbaz- grandson- Yaakov

Rochel Erlanger Hildesheim-boy

Rebecca Tessler Pollack-boy

### BAR MITZVAHS:

Chaya Shleifer Berelowitz-Yitzy

Shana Aron Schuman- Akiva

Dena Beren Grossman- Chaim Aryeh

Chavi Zussman Jacobs- Michoel

Rabbi and Mrs. Yechiel Erlanger - Moshe

Beila Sirota Goodman- Gavi

### ENGAGEMENTS:

Esti Meyer to Chaim Gross

Jade Shurtleff to Aryeh Goldshine

Bluma Melamed Krasne’s daughter Chana to Eliyahu Alon

Judy Zinn Bulmash’s son Moshe

Ruth Maleh to Dovid Ovdia

Chana Perton to Josh Ford

### WEDDINGS:

Nancy Horwitz Wolff’s- son Shmulie to Henny Pomerantz

Malky Robinson Cagan’s daughter Chaya Faigy to Dovy Weiss

Aliza Berman to Tuvia Harbater

Rina Chirquel to Danny Betech

Michelle Koll Strum’s son Akiva to Yael Bloch

Shternie Sirota to Mendel Kosofsky

Batya Mendelson to Yaacob Chayo

Rochel Leah Borenstein Rosenberg’s daughter Chani to Shlomo Eisenberg

Menucha Singer Dudovitz’s son Shalom to Tova Hollander

Ariela Benozillo to Daniel Morhaim

## Batya

### EDITORIAL BOARD:

Rabbi Myer J. Schwab

Mrs. Aliza Chernitzky

Sarah Nadoff Mizrahi

### STUDENT CONTRIBUTORS:

Rachel Badalov

Leah Meyer

Talya Schreiber

Yael Schweitzer

### PAGE LAYOUT:

Mira Freeman

A publication of **Beth Jacob High School**  
5100 West 14th Avenue | Denver, CO 80204  
303-893-1333 | bethjacob@bjhs.org

*Beth Jacob High School is a beneficiary of the Allied Jewish Federation, Rose Community Foundation, Harry H. Beren Trust, ACE (Alliance for Choice in Education), Glassman Foundation and The Art Harris Trust.*

**“I will miss Denver and my memories will warm me forever.”**

**Mrs. Tziporah Heisler, Dear Friend of BYD, Bids Farewell to Denver**

BY Yael Schweitzer

Mrs. Tziporah Heisler has been a dear friend of BYD almost since its inception. She was an active member of the Denver Jewish Community, devoting her time to BYD, Yeshiva Toras Chaim, Hillel Academy, and the west side Mikvah. This summer she and her husband moved to Lakewood, NJ.

Q: Mrs. Heisler, where are you from originally?  
A: I am originally from Eretz Yisrael. When I was about 10 years old my family moved to New York. My husband was born in England, and also moved to New York as a young boy. It was there that we met.

Q: What brought you to Denver?

A: After I got married, my husband was a Rabbi in a shul in Homestead, Pennsylvania. During the Vietnam War, my husband was approached to be a chaplain in the army. We were young and didn't have children yet. It seemed like an exciting venture! B"H he wasn't stationed overseas, but rather in Fort Carson, which is about 75 miles from Denver. After close



Mrs. Heisler: “I feel a lot of gratitude toward BYD for taking care of girls from Denver and beyond.”

She was my teacher in New York.

When I moved to Denver, she was one of the first people who welcomed us, and she was the first to wish me mazal tov when I had a baby.

Q: Describe your connection to BYD.

A: From 1971 until the dorm opened in 1977 we were house parents for anywhere between 1-5 girls at a time. It was a challenge to be a mother figure for girls who were just a few years younger than me! After the dorm opened, we remained actively involved

to two years in Fort Carson we moved to Denver because he got a job here. We lived in Denver for 47 years.

Q: Why did you choose to become actively involved in Bais Yaakov?

A: I had known Mrs. Schwab for many years.

by serving as Shabbos hosts. I also served as president of Ladies of Beth Jacob for 20 years. Additionally, my husband was one of the first board members, and he served on the board for 40 years. And, of course, my daughters attended BYD.

Q: What do you feel makes BYD different from other schools?

A: It is a very personal place. The teachers take a lot of interest in each student, and everyone gets a great deal of personal attention. The teachers are very kind. There is also a lot of ruach in the school because of the many extra-curricular activities they have. Through those activities each girl gets a chance to shine in different ways.

Q: Is there a message you would like to convey as you leave Denver?

A: I feel a lot of gratitude toward BYD for taking care of girls from Denver and beyond. Because of BYD, there was a school in Denver for me to send my girls to, and I am very thankful for that. I will miss Denver and my memories will warm me forever.

Yael Schweitzer is from Denver. She is a junior in BYD.

## Yom Iyun

### A Beautiful Opportunity for Learning and Growth

Bais Yaakov Denver recently held an inspirational *yom iyun* – a full day of learning and related activities – on the topic of *tefillah*-prayer. Students spent the day delving deeper into a subject that is such a crucial part of our lives, yet whose true value often remains elusive. While technological advancements have made it easier than ever for us to communicate with people all over the world, it is ironic that in our times so many people find it difficult to truly communicate with and connect to Hashem through *tefillah*. And so BYD took a day off to focus on this vital component of our avodas Hashem.



Mrs. Bruria Schwab, Menacheles of Bais Yaakov Denver, galvanized the entire student body to prepare for the event. Several weeks prior to the *yom iyun*, every girl was asked to submit any question she had on *tefillah*.

The day began with an introduction by Mrs. Schwab. “Why did Hashem give Adam HaRishon the ability to speak before there were any other people to talk to?” she asked. “It is because the primary function of our speech is to talk to Hashem.”

During the *yom iyun*, a panel of Bais Yaakov's religious studies teachers, moderated by BYD veteran teacher Mrs. Avigayil Steinharter, responded to *hashkafah*-based questions. *Halachah*-based questions were addressed by Denver Community Kollel scholar Rabbi Shmuel Halpern. Miss Dasi Indich spoke to the girls about the history of *tefillah*, and BYD seniors Liora Kohanteb and Chana Steinharter spoke about the special connection women have to *tefillah* and about the importance of humility when we daven. A moving talk by Rabbi Tzvi Mordechai Feldheim, Menahel of Yeshiva Toras Chaim of Denver, left the girls inspired and motivated to grow.

The room displays on *Perek Shirah*, *Brachos*, *Az Yashir* and *Nishmas* were a highlight of the program. The displays were artistic, creative and



informative. Each class dedicated many hours of teamwork to create these masterpieces.

“The lessons and inspiration continue to resonate long after the *yom iyun* has passed,” says 11th-grader Shulamis Erlanger. “Realizing the power of the words that the *Anshei Knesses Hagedolah* (Men of Great Assembly) established for us, and learning more halachos, have helped increase my kavanah when I daven.”

In the weeks leading up to the event, the school was abuzz with activity in preparation for the *yom iyun*. All that hard work paid off, as the day proved to be very meaningful indeed.

# Eggplant Revisited

BY DEENA SANDOCK ABRAHAM



When I was newly married I was very excited to prepare meals. I asked my husband if there was anything that he didn't like to eat, as I didn't want to make anything that we wouldn't both enjoy. Fortunately, we had pretty similar tastes and liked mostly the same things. But there was one thing that I really liked that my husband disliked very strongly – eggplant.

And so I never made eggplant. The only time I got to have eggplant was when we went to visit my in-laws. My mother-in-law liked it, but she never used to make it, because no one else in the family would eat it – until I joined the family.

Once, many years ago, I made roasted eggplant spread. It sounded really good and we were having a lot of company;

surely I wouldn't be the only one to enjoy it. And I wasn't. It was well-liked by many people at the meal – including my husband. This is the only way he will eat eggplant, and eat it he does, very happily.

This is a great recipe to make any time of year, but especially during the summer, when vegetables are at their best. I make it all year round, including Pesach. (It's a really nice spread on matzah!) So even if you don't like eggplant, you might want to be brave and give it a try. Enjoy!



ROASTED EGGPLANT SPREAD

1 large eggplant  
2 red peppers  
½ red onion  
4 cloves garlic  
3 Tbsp. olive oil  
1 tsp. kosher salt  
¼ tsp. pepper  
1 Tbsp. tomato paste

Grease a large baking pan. Peel the eggplant and cut into cubes about 1" in size. Remove the seeds and top from the peppers and cut into 1" pieces. Chop the onion and garlic. Place the vegetables in the baking pan. Add the oil, salt, and pepper, and stir to combine. Roast at 400 degrees for 45 minutes, mixing once after about 20 minutes. Cool slightly. Process the roasted vegetables in batches in a food processor to blend, adding tomato paste. If a creamier texture is desired, process until the mixture is smooth. Season with additional salt and pepper if desired.

*Deena Sandock Abraham is a 1990 BJHS graduate.*

## FOURTH QUARTER DEAN'S LIST

RACHEL BADALOV  
GEULA BACKER  
SIMCHA BAXMAN  
CARMEILLE BEAN  
BAILA BERKOWITZ  
BRACHA BERKOWITZ  
FAIGY BERKOWITZ  
TALY CARMONA  
TZIPORAH DAVIDSON  
ADINA DERR  
DEVORA TZILYA EL  
SHULAMIS ERLANGER  
SHIRA FREEDMAN  
YEHUDIS KASZTL  
CHAYA KRAUSZ  
MALKA LEBAN  
ELISHEVA MAJOR  
MIRYAM MAJOR  
LEAH MEYER  
RIVKY SCHNALL  
CHANA STEINHARTER  
CHAYA WASSERMAN  
NECHAMA WASSERMAN  
MIRIAM WILEN

## WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

### Jennifer Schwartz Jacobs, '02

Jennifer currently lives in Israel, in Beitar Elite, with her husband, former Denver native Benji Jacobs, and their five young children. Upon graduating from BYD Jennifer attended Stern College and then went on to receive her Master's in Speech Pathology and Audiology from California State University. She has worked as a speech therapist for children in Israel and currently does online therapy for children in the U.S.

"I had such a wonderful high school experience," says Jennifer. "It was an amazing mix of learning, spiritual growth, friendships and fun. I really felt that Rabbi and Mrs. Schwab and Mrs. Melamed truly valued each student and wanted each one to excel in her own unique way.

"B"H, with four girls of my own now, I yearn to be able to give my daughters the same kind of high school experience that I had – that perfect blend of learning, extracurricular activities, close friendships and wonderful role models. I have no doubt that the values I learned in BYD have shaped me into who I am today."



## FROM THE DESK OF MRS. BRURIA SCHWAB

# The Mouse Trap



We are all so busy with our own affairs. Do we care enough about other people?

Allow me to share a story my sister once told me.

A mouse who dwelled in a farmhouse found out that the housewife was planning to set a mousetrap to catch him. Knowing that his end was near, he was petrified. He shared his plight with the chicken. "Don't bother me!" the chicken responded. "This has nothing to do with me! It's your problem. Why should I worry?"

The mouse then turned to the sheep and shared his fears with her. The sheep was not too interested either. "The trap is too small for me," she said. "Why should I worry if nothing is going to happen to me?"

The poor little mouse went to the cow and explained his dire situation,

describing his terrible fear. But just like the others, the cow responded with indifference. "Why should I concern myself with a threat to your life that has nothing to do with me?"

All of a sudden, they heard a loud S-N-A-P! The trap had caught a snake! But lo and behold, only the snake's tail was locked in the device. As the housewife approached the trap, the snake bit her. She became very ill. Her husband slaughtered the chicken to make her a pot of chicken soup. Unfortunately, she did not fare well, and many visitors came to see her. The husband then slaughtered the sheep as well, and served her visitors lamb chops.

Tragically, she passed away. The house was crowded with people who came from far and wide to offer their condolences to the mourners. In order to serve them a meal, the farmer killed the cow. Only the mouse was still alive!

\*\*\*\*

When we choose to help bear another person's burden, the very

least we accomplish is to alleviate his emotional distress, and that alone can be a tremendous help. At best, we can contribute to finding a solution to his problem.

In Pirkei Avos (6:6) we are told that there are 48 qualities that are necessary in order to acquire Torah. One of them is "sharing the yoke of one's fellow." This is explained as sharing in his pain, and helping him physically, financially, or with good advice.

What the farm animals realized – too late – is that they could have found a way to disable the trap, rather than leaving the helpless mouse to his fate. Instead, they ignored his plight – and they paid the price.

To be apathetic to the suffering of our fellow man is, for many reasons, a big mistake. As this parable illustrates, another person's problem is really our problem too.

*Mrs. Schwab is the religious studies principal of Beth Jacob High School.*