In April, SAR Academy welcomed Naftali Bennett, Israel’s Minister of Education and Minister of Diaspora Affairs, and former Minister of Economy and Minister of Religious Services. Mr. Bennett explained his position’s responsibility for taking care of Jews worldwide, and protecting Medinat Yisrael.

In May, SAR High School students had the remarkable honor to greet Ehud Barak, former Prime Minister of the State of Israel. To prepare, classes studied Barak’s biography, and the background of political events marking his life in politics, including the Oslo Accords and the Camp David Summit.

WHAT IS SAR’S GREATEST ACCOMPLISHMENT SINCE ITS FOUNDING?
Since its inception, SAR has championed an engaged, vibrant, Halakhic Jewish life—confident and courageous; and has championed a learning environment where students are trusted and respected, given the space to take risks and to think and to dream. It is a place where students have a voice, where they feel safe to express themselves and discover their passions and interests.

WHAT DO YOU KNOW FOR SURE ABOUT EDUCATING CHILDREN?
It’s not just what you learn. It’s what you become. WHO HAS SAR BECOME SINCE ITS FOUNDING?
SAR has become a flagship institution of Jewish education. For faculty, it has become a place which welcomes curiosity and change, risk taking and an entrepreneurial spirit. SAR is a thriving and caring institution where teaching is a dynamic experience. For students, it is a place of creativity and warmth. self-discovery and spiritual growth.

WHAT DO YOU KNOW FOR SURE ABOUT SAR EDUCATION?
Patience is crucial, and impatience is anathema to the educational enterprise. Every child is a world, every child is unique, and every child needs time and space, love and guidance. In order to become the best version of him or her, Schools are not factories; they are spaces of love, creativity and imagination; spaces that establish the frame within which our children can learn to take ownership over their growth and development, on a path to becoming trib and Torah.

WHY WOULD YOU DESCRIBE THE GIFT OF AN SAR EDUCATION?
The gift of an SAR education: the opportunity to discover your strengths, establish a personal connection, to love a life infused with Torah and holiness, a love for Medinat Yisrael and a concern for all people—Jews and non Jews. At SAR, our students learn to take responsibility—to protect the land and family.

HOW WOULD YOU GROW PROFESSIONALLY AND PERSONALLY SINCE JOINING SAR?
I have spent the overwhelming portion of my adult life at SAR; I have grown in every way possible—as a teacher, as a parent, as a learner. As a leader. I try everyday to be surrounded by lay leaders, colleagues and educators who possess the courage, vision, love, passion, integrity, generosity, and commitment. In my now 25 years of SAR, I have been privileged to learn from the best. I feel it on my first day on the job a long time ago—and it continues to this day!

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THE WORLD IS BUILT WITH LOVING KINDNESS
Guided by this verse in Tehillim, older students learned and then taught younger children about chesed, inclusivity, and东南ing for others to bring the Torah theme to life. The entire student body united to take action, performing acts of chesed to create a better world.

CHESED FOR HARVEY
The Academy and High School put "Olam Chesed Yibaneh" into action following the devastation caused by Houston’s Hurricane Harvey. ELC through Grade 8 students created and sold Rosh Hashanah packages to local families, raising $2,500 to donate to Houston’s Jewish community.

"...we will never forget the chesed exhibited by the SAR community. Truly, I am choked up even now thinking about the care you have shown us.”

Warmly and gratefully, Paul Oleman Head of School Robert M. Berlin Academy Houston, Texas

SAR Privileged to Host Ehud Barak, Naftali Bennett

In a schoolwide program, Barak engaged in conversation with Rabbi Harcsztark, followed by student questions. His description of political situations in the region, in Sayeret Matkal, the IDF’s elite commando unit, and discussed recent Israeli political and security developments. Faculty later participated in a Q&A session. Every student and staff member received a copy of Ehud Barak’s new memoir, My Country, My Life.

RABBI TULLY HARCSZTARK

The Midrashic Moments campaign was the theme highlight. Students and teachers submitted midrashic moments, stories when they saw students exhibiting exemplary middot. These examples became a focal point in Rabbi Harcsztark’s weekly midrashic announcements as students looked forward to learning who would be recognized for the “Midrash Moment of the Week.”

CHARACTER MIDDOT

The annual theme of Tikun HaMiddot focused on students developing their religious and moral personalities through self-awareness and attention to traits of humility (emet, truthfulness) and diligence (anava, meekness and zealousness). Students concentrated on their own middot and concrete approaches to personal character refinement.

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Academy Highlights

ELC Expands Powerful Ivrit Curriculum

- Middle School Expands Torah Study
  - #LIMUD@SAR
  - Ten informally Jamaica (Jamaica for its own sake) opportunities are extended Torah study beyond the classroom, including talmudic texts, Mitzvah Madness, Grade 6-Chabad Lunch Club, Cheshiras HaHilulah, and Purim Road Trip.

Nationally Prominent Authors Visit Grades 1-6

- Adults from Baby Bridge, a self-published author Trudy Ludwig, and Nancy Krulik, author of the George Brown Class Clown series, visited SAR. Students learned how writers discover ideas, document history, research, advocate, and publish.

Co-Curricular Highlights

- ELC increased the number of activities conducted exclusively in Ivrit, particularly for younger students.
- Under the direction of Hen Lerner, a new faculty member from Israel, and Erika Edelman, Kol HaKavod to SAR’s very own Academy Students.
- Middle School students and faculty signed the SAR Academy Power of Words Day Pledge. The Pledge was then adapted to honor Eliezer Ben Yehuda’s 160th birthday, the father of modern Hebrew.
- To celebrate Israel’s 70th, the Academy produced the Israel@70 “Music Through the Decades” video. Each grade performed a song reflective of one decade of Medinat Yisrael’s existence. On Yom HaAtzmaut, everyone singing Hatikvah on the field, creating the formation of an Israeli flag, which concluded the video.

Achievements

- Tamar Katz, Henna Krauss, Judah Lopatin, Liam Lenis, Adiul Feintuch, Moshe Sarnas, Abie Perelis, Yonatan Feintuch, and Ethel Feintuch competed in the national Chidon HaTanakh finals in April, along with finalists from around the U.S.
- Tamar, Judah, Liam, Moshe, and Abie traveled on a special trip to Israel organized by SAR to experience Chidon HaTanakh in Israel and attend the international competition on Yom HaAtzmaut.

Thank you to Shimon and Lea Katz for providing team shirts.

Planning ahead for the Grade 7 Boys’ Basketball Team, for winning the championship for the second year in a row. We also gave a “high five” to the Grade 6 Boys’ Basketball Team with a championship parade around the school.

Color Run fun!
The Jewish Education Project funded the festival, recognizing that seeing and discussing exceptional filmmaking can contribute to developing empathy and mutual understanding in our communities.

A micro-grant from The Jewish Education Project funded the festival, recognizing that seeing and discussing exceptional filmmaking can contribute to developing empathy and mutual understanding in our communities. Current issues in the Jewish and modern world can be discussed through open and honest communication, more so than through any other medium.

Contemporary Learning Festival Promotes Machon Siach.org

In March, the schoolwide “Walk Out” was held in Parkland, Florida, to address the gun violence epidemic, and the “March for Our Lives” movement in Washington, D.C. to call for action to address gun violence and school safety.

This year, Machon Siach experienced tremendous growth and development, while simultaneously maintaining research and engaging with impact curriculum and learning approaches. The educators at Machon Siach have committed to collaborative learning and growth, including professional development and courses focused on inclusivity and Jewish identity.

The schoolwide Shabbaton, held in Stamford, included the house with 810 students, faculty, and their families, and alumni. The focus was on 70 as a place of religious renewal, a refuge for Jewish immigrants, and a celebration of our deep love and connection to Medinat Yisrael.

#BEE&CHESED

SAR Model UN Team was Best Delegation for the 5th year in a Row! The SAR Model UN team represented Switzerland and Singapore, placed first, securing the Best Delegation title for the 5th year in a row! Team winners are: Adin Gitig (Best Delegate, UN Office on Drugs and Crime), Rita Feder Klein (Best Delegate, Security Council), Maya Rubenstein (Best Delegate, Science and Cultural Organization), Tamar Geller (Best Delegate, UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization), and Mohammad Khabir Zandi (Best Delegate, Children’s Rights Council).

SAR Has come in 1st or 2nd place in the Jewish Education Project’s (JEP) Science Olympiad every year for the past eleven years. This year, SAR won two Gold and three Silver medals. Six students traveled to Yale University for the national Math Majors of America Tournament for High Schools and won the “Mathathon” event. Joey Yudelson (HS ’18) was the top-ranked participant under the alternate-test date section.

Students attended the APAC Policy Conference in Washington, D.C., participating in three days of sessions, speeches, and lobbying local members of Congress.

17 students were among the 10,000 participants running in the Jerusalem Marathon, collectively raising $50,000 for Sheba, supporting teenagers with disabilities. Glorios Schneider, Rabbi Dr. Moshe Drolchin, and Miriam Safar-Rahmani accompanied Team Shalva.

250 students and coaches from 25 sports teams gathered at the inaugural Sports Banquet to celebrate achievements during the 2017-18 school year, both on and off the court, in and field.

The Boys JV Soccer, Girls Softball, Girls JV Soccer, and Girls JV Basketball all won titles. Additionally, the Boys’ Varsity Hockey team earned the school’s first-ever Varsity Hockey Championship. Goldei Kobli (HS ’18) netted all five goals and was named the game’s MVP.

Incentives. SAR High School’s economics magazine, was named 2018 Crown Finalist by the Columbia Scholastic Press Association. Only five percent of the 1,200 submissions were chosen as finalists. Class of 17 students were editors, with David Lewis and Janna Baruch editors this past year.

Investing in Our Faculty

Investing in SAR faculty has always been one of our core values. Faculty development and collaboration are focused on advancing a vibrant and evolving faculty. Professional development builds on work from last year, when faculty collaborated on rethinking and rewriting our criteria. Building the SAR Endowment: An Investment with a Tremendous Return

To The SAR Community,

I have heard it said that one of the unique qualities of SAR, that sets it apart from other schools, is that SAR delivers a value based education. I agree—we indeed value a value-based school and among our core values is the giving, fun and taking care of the collective community so that an excellent Yadiva education is available to all our families. It is an obligation we bear as members of the Jewish community. I am thankful that so many in our community feel the same way and are committed to our mission and steadfastly support us with their beida槽. Our kehila is extraordinary—we share a deep sense of obligation to care for the members of our community when in need or come together to shape in celebration. This year, 1,100 donors gifted $4.2 million to our operating budget. These gifts helped fund the SAR tuition assistance program and enabled many memorable programs to occur. Through the generosity of the community, over 1,500 students experienced the values, spirit, and learning that take place at SAR everyday.

Additionally, this year we began to fundraise for our capital and endowment campaign: SpecArtuall Futures. We are committed on our way to success and these next 12 months will be important in completing the campaign and building our endowment so that we can pass the reins to the next generation, we have buildings that provide for the needs of our students and we have an endowment that will allocate pressure from other income streams, tuition in particular.

The Building the SAR Endowment: An Investment with a Tremendous Return

Gifts for our endowment really make a difference. SAR is participating in a matching opportunity for commitments to our Endowment through the UJA-Federation of New York’s Day School Challenge Fund (DSCF) program. For every dollar of annual distributions that the school receives as a result of your gift, the school will receive a 50% matching distribution. This incentive is for all gifts: pledged by December 31, 2023, and paid by September 15, 2024. Please contact Heidi Greenbaum, Director of Development, greenbaumjr@saracademy.org for more information.

There is no greater investment than the one we make in our children. It is a lifelong gift that is certain to pay dividends to each family and to the Jewish people.

Jack C. Bendheim

PRESIDENT, BOARD OF TRUSTEES

The SAR Fund Campaigns

The largest event of the year is the SAR Dinner. Almost 2,000 people come together to celebrate families, friends, and SAR’s commitment to the mission, making a difference across all ages and streams. These gifts help fund many of the things we love at SAR. The biggest event of the year is the SAR Dinner. Almost 2,000 people come together to celebrate families, friends, and SAR’s commitment to the mission, making a difference across all ages and streams. These gifts help fund many of the things we love at SAR.

GUARDIAN CIRCLE

Our major donor program forms the foundation for philanthropy at SAR. 60 FAMILIES and our leadership donors give their time, their talent, and their treasure.

16%

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SHAVUOT APPEAL: AUCTION, BEE4SAR DAY, CAN IAN DIG, & MORE

As we approach Shavuot, we are pleased to announce that our SAR honorees will be holding a celebration to fund our budget—and that it does! The strength of our honorees and supporters when in need or come together to shape in celebration. This year, 1,100 donors gifted $4.2 million to our operating budget. These gifts helped fund the SAR tuition assistance program and enabled many memorable programs to occur. Through the generosity of the community, over 1,500 students experienced the values, spirit, and learning that take place at SAR everyday.

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The High School Class of 2018 secured 100% participation for the class legacy gift, raising $5,000. We dedicate $1,000 from that total (amount not included in the above) to fund many of the things we love at SAR. These gifts help fund many of the things we love at SAR.

The latest event of the year is the SAR Dinner. Almost 2,000 people come together to celebrate families, friends, and SAR’s commitment to the mission, making a difference across all ages and streams. These gifts help fund many of the things we love at SAR.
Thank You for Your Support!

Listed here are those individuals and families whose charitable gifts to the school’s Anniversary Dinner, Shavuot Appeal, Guardian Circle, Capital Campaign, Endowment, and program sponsorships helped make the 2017–2018 year so memorable.

SAR’S 49TH ANNIVERSARY DINNER

250+ DINNER VOLUNTEERS

1,000 GUESTS

SpectAculaR Futures: A 50th Anniversary Project

This year we quietly began the $10M capital and endowment campaign to fund major expansion projects at both the Academy and High School campuses. We are making good progress with our financial goals and 2018-2019 will be an important year for successfully completing the campaign. Construction is underway and will be in process during the 2018-2019 school year which marks SAR’s 50th Anniversary. These campus improvements will not only benefit current students but students for decades into the future. We invite your partnership in this important project. Learn more at sar50celebration.org/campaign or contact Heidi Greenbaum, greenh@saracademy.org

Shutafim

Thank you to the 200+ grandparents who generously supported our students. Your participation, wisdom, and love make a tremendous difference.

NEW GRANDPARENT EVENT AT THE HIGH SCHOOL: 300 GRANDPARENTS JOINED THEIR GRANDCHILDREN FOR A NIGHT OF TORAH LEARNING TAUGHT BY FACULTY AT THE HIGH SCHOOL MISHMAR MADNESS CLASS IN MAY.
Thank you, Alumni!

SAR connections remain strong among Academy and High School graduates. SAR Alumni are actively engaged in our community, serving as school ambassadors, volunteers, mentors, donors and so much more. We look forward to your continued involvement and participation.

We Salute Our Volunteers!

In Memoriam

Robert Friedkin

of the Temple Beth Ami, brother-in-law of Michael Steinman, was a long-time member of the Community Relations Committee and a long-time supporter of SAR. He passed away on November 25, 2017.

Lillian Friedkin

wife of Mindy Steinman, an active supporter of SAR, passed away on January 26, 2018.

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of SAR’s alumni department, passed away at the age of 59 on June 18, 2017.

Mazal tov to Eden Glucksman, to whom SAR is so grateful.

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Thank you for educating our children with such amazing dedication and integrity. I can’t imagine any other school focused on doing the right thing as effectively and consistently as SAR. And, it is done with such simcha... It’s my personal belief that there is nothing Hashem finds more worthy and important than empathy, and your school is bursting with it. Meichayil el chayil.

— Yisroel Friedman, High School parent