



# Magen Avot



11 July 2026 / 26 Tammuz 5786 (Shabbat Mevarchim)

פְּרָשַׁת מַטּוֹת-מַסֵּי / Parashat Matot-Masei

Friday Mincha	Light From	שַׁבָּת	SZ Kriat Shema	שַׁבָּת Chabura	שַׁבָּת Shacharit	Minis/Maxis	שַׁבָּת Mincha	שַׁבָּת Ends	Sunday Shacharit
7:15 PM	7:35 PM	9:02 PM	9:01 AM	9:15 AM	9:30 AM	10:45 AM	9:18 PM	10:18 PM	8:20 AM

Shabbat	
<b>Chabura:</b>	Jeremy Beider
<b>Magen Minis and Maxis:</b>	Meets at 10:45 AM
<b>Munchies Sponsor:</b>	To be announced
<b>Y@MA:</b>	Meets after Mussaf Kedusha
<b>Y@MA Sponsor:</b>	Anonymously sponsored
<b>Kriat Hatorah:</b>	Shimon Levy
<b>Shabbat Drasha (After Mussaf):</b>	Rabbi Michael Melchior
<b>Post Mincha Speaker:</b>	Rabbi Michael Melchior on "The Religious Obligation to Turn Enemies into Friends".

**Kiddush**  
Sponsored by Anouk and Darren Abrahams on the occasion of Fay's birthday

**Rosh Chodesh Menachem Av**  
The Molad takes place this Tuesday, at 7:30pm and 17 chalakim.  
ראש חודש מנחם אב יהיה ביום רביעי הבא עלינו ועל כל ישראל לטובה  
*Rosh Chodesh Menachem Av yihyeh beyom rev'i haba aleinu ve'al kol Yisrael letovah. (Wednesday)*

**Chabura Training**  
If anyone would like to give a chabura or learn how to prepare one, please speak with Rabbi Dr Steven Gaffin.

Yahrzeits			
Name	Relationship	Date	Hebrew date
<b>Menachem Kfir</b>	Wife	13/07/2026	28 Tammuz 5786
<b>Nadine Kay</b>	Mother	13/07/2026	28 Tammuz 5786
<b>Stefan Biologuski</b>	Father	14/07/2026	29 Tammuz 5786
<b>Roxanne Blumgart</b>	Grandfather	15/07/2026	1 Av 5786
<b>Viviane White</b>	Mother	16/07/2026	2 Av 5786

**Thank you, Sophie!**  
On behalf of everyone at Magen Avot, we'd like to say a huge thank you to Sophie, who is stepping down this week after five wonderful years leading Y@MA. Her dedication, enthusiasm and endless energy have helped Y@MA grow into the fantastic community it is today. Sophie has inspired so many young people and families over the years, and we're incredibly grateful for everything she has done. Thank you, Sophie!

**Rabbi Michael Melchior, our scholar in residence**  
Rabbi Michael Melchior is a distinguished rabbi, educator, and former Israeli cabinet minister. Former Chief Rabbi of Norway, he served in the Knesset from 1999–2009, including as Deputy Foreign Minister. He is President of Mosaica – Center for Conflict Resolution, promoting interfaith dialogue, mediation, and social cohesion, and is internationally recognised for advancing peace and religious cooperation.

**Magen Avot Book Club**  
The Magen Avot Book Club will meet on Sunday, 26th July at 7:30 PM, venue TBA. The book is "Wandering Souls" by Cecile Pin, a gripping novel that follows three Vietnamese siblings who flee their war-torn country and build a new life in Thatcher's Britain. Available at the library, too. More info: <https://www.amazon.co.uk/WANDERING-SOULS-HB-longlisted-Beautiful/dp/0008528772>. Join the MA Book Club WhatsApp group to find out more.



**Bereavement Befriending Training**  
The United Synagogue are running their annual bereavement training for new volunteers. This will be run by Bereavement Care, with the input of Rebbetzen Jacqueline Feldman, from Bushey. Date: Sunday 1st and 8th of November. Participants need to attend both days. Time: 10am to 3pm. Place: Bushey Shul. If you are interested in signing up please contact Dr. Tammy Nisner (Tel: 0785-596-2721)

## Israel and Her Journey - balancing religion, nationalism, Halacha and ethics

Magen Avot is delighted to support this exciting conference, taking place on Sunday 12th July, with renowned international speakers. It will discuss, within an authentic halachic framework, how and if Israel can move forward as a Jewish and Democratic state, with citizens living in social solidarity and in shared security, peace and prosperity with their regional neighbours.

- The programme of speakers for the conference is as follows:
- Ha Rav Mosheh Lichtenstein** (Rosh Yeshivat Har Etzion): "Not by Might Nor by Power but by My Spirit" (addressing divisions, judicial reform, extreme Messianic Religious Nationalism).
  - Rabbi Yosef Blau** (Senior Mashgiach Yeshiva University and Rabbi Isaac Elchanan Theological Seminary (RIETS) Emeritas): "When can the Diaspora protest Israeli actions and when is that a Chillul Hashem?"
  - Rabbi Yirmiyahu Stavitsky** (Ex Principal Himmelfarb High School, Jerusalem): "The tension between a Halachic and religious system and modern democratic values"
  - Rabbi Baruch Weintraub** (Reserve Tank gunner, Maggid Shiur Har Etzion online Yeshivah): "Fighting in Gaza- personal experience of moral and halachic dilemmas of asymmetric warfare"
  - Dr Nechumi Yaffe** (Charedi Political Psychologist, Tel Aviv U): "Engaging Charedim in Israeli Society: A Researched-Based Look Inside Charedi Society – Its Communities, Streams and Inner Complexity"
  - Rabbi Michael Melchior** (former Israeli Cabinet Minister, founder and President of MOSAICA and MEITARIM): in interview with Sruli Fruchter: "Potential Partnerships for Peaceful Co-existence within Israel and the Region"
  - PANEL** - (all speakers) with moderator: Sruli Fruchter (Director of Product at Jewish Insider and Rabbi Isaac Elchanan Theological Seminary student (RIETS) at YU, formerly Operations Director at the 18Forty podcast, host of 18 Questions, 40 Israeli Thinkers).

Tickets may be purchased through the following web site:  
[buytickets.at/israelconference/2258692](http://buytickets.at/israelconference/2258692)

A ONE-DAY CONFERENCE

ישראל ואתיקה

# Israel and Her Journey

*Balancing Religion, Nationalism, Halacha and Ethics*

This conference explores how and if Israel can move forward - within an authentic halachic framework - as a Jewish and Democratic State, with its citizens living in social solidarity, and in shared security, peace and prosperity with their regional neighbors.

THE SPEAKERS



**Ha Rav Moshel Lichtenstein**

KEVUNOT ADDRESS  
CO-ROSH YHESHIVAT HAI ETZION

"Not by Might Nor by Power but by My Spirit" ...  
... challenges, tensions and difficulties of balancing power and ethical concerns confronting Israeli society in the hinterland, political/judicial arena and bitings of the Land.



**Rabbi Yosef Blau**

SENIOR MEMBER OF THE HAI UNIVERSITY AND RABBI MAZAR B'CHAYAN THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY (NETZ, EMERITUS)  
"When can the Diaspora prove Israeli wisdom, and when is it *Chofel Mitzvat*?"



**Rabbi Yirmiyahu Stavitsky**

SENIOR PROFESSOR OF THE HAI UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF JEWISH STUDIES, JERUSALEM  
"The tension between a Halachic and religious system and modern democratic values"



**Rabbi Baruch Weintraub**

RESEVER TANK GOVERNOR, RAMAT SHAN, YERUSALEM  
HAI ETZION, 2014-2016  
"Rigidity in state: personal experience of Israel and halachic dilemma of appropriate warfare"



**Dr. Nechumi Yaffe**

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER, PERIODIC COAST, TEL AVIV UNIVERSITY  
"Empowering the Charedim in Israeli Society: A Research-Based Look Inside Charedi Society - Its Communities, Services, and Inner Complexity"



**Rabbi Michael Melchior**

FORMER HAIKALI CABINET MINISTER, FOUNDER & PRESIDENT, MACHANAH AND METARIM  
In conversation with Staff Fruchter, "Personal Anecdotes for Kivvod? Co-existence within Israel and the Region"



**Staff Fruchter**

DIRECTOR OF RESEARCH, JERUSALEM, SEFTS STUDENT FORMER DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONS AT IBIORIT, FORMER FORMER CO-CHAIRMAN, MODERATOR QUESTIONS, 400 SPARKLE FINANCERS

**Admission**  
No Charge for Local Residents

**DATE** Sunday 12th July 2026

**VENUE** NW London location

SCAN TO BUY TICKETS  
Purchase admission on event  
0223260022

PROGRAMME

9:30 - 9:40	Introduction by Daryn Zubin
9:40 - 10:40	Ha Rav Moshel Lichtenstein
10:40 - 11:40	Rabbi Yosef Blau
11:40 - 12:00	Coffee Break
12:00 - 12:50	Rabbi Yirmiyahu Stavitsky
13:00 - 14:00	Buffet Lunch
14:00 - 15:00	Rabbi Baruch Weintraub
15:00 - 16:00	Dr. Nechumi Yaffe
16:00 - 16:30	Mincha & Coffee Break
16:30 - 17:30	Rabbi Michael Melchior
17:30 - 17:50	Coffee Break
17:50 - 18:00	Closing Q&A Panel - All Speakers



MAGEN AVOT

SCHOLAR IN RESIDENCE

RABBI MICHAEL MELCHIOR  
WILL BE GIVING THE  
SHABBAT MORNING DRASHA

SHABBAT AFTERNOON SHIUR

# THE RELIGIOUS OBLIGATION TO TURN ENEMIES INTO FRIENDS



Rabbi Michael Melchior

Rabbi Melchior will be addressing the Kehillah and delivering the drasha on Shabbat morning.

Shabbat Parshat Matot-Masei  
**11th July 2026**  
Mincha 9:18pm  
followed by shiur  
Ma'ariv 10:18pm

ABOUT THE SPEAKER

- Former member of the Knesset and Israeli minister
- Former Deputy Minister of Education, Culture and Foreign Affairs
- Founding Chairman of Birtnight Israel
- Founder and Chairman of Mossica, promoting religious peace and conflict transformation
- Founder of Metarim, a network of 170+ inclusive Jewish schools and communities in Israel
- Internationally renowned Jewish leader, thinker and advocate for peaceful coexistence and social justice
- Descendant of seven generations of Danish Rabbis

