

2018 ALUMNI DVAR TORAH SNAPSHOTS

From: Terms and Conditions by Pnina Grossman (SBM 2012)

G-d's relationship with Bnei Yisrael is truly unconditional.

From: Israel and the Outsider: Amalek and Yitro by Miriam Zami (SBM 2015)

Even Moshe and Israel, on the brink of monumental national history, required assistance from an outsider. Israel is taught that even in this moment, they should not only be concerned with their self-contained circle.

From: The Slave's Eye by Miriam Gedwiser (SBM 2002)

In truth no one has yet constructed an abuse-proof legal system.

From: Architecture, Divine and Human by Yedidya Naveh (SBM 2010, 2011)

All fine architectural and human values are divine values.

From: Instillation and Sanctification by Rabbi Dan Margulies (WBM 2016)

Our educational systems and communal culture do a disservice to people when we set them up for greatness without giving them enough to do with it once they earn it.

From: Drawing Near, Standing Back by Jenna Englender (SBM 2015)

In order to be a connecting force, we need to maintain balance.

From: Destinations and Transformations by Rabbi Dr. Ira Bedzow (SBM 2003)

It is not that communal or individual transformation does not begin with an experience of internal dissonance – rather, internal dissonance is only a potential precursor to transformation, there must still be a vision or a goal as to whom one wants ultimately to become.

From: Regarding the Two Berakhot by Tuvy Miller (SBM 2013)

It is important for us to know that great leaders – even in public moments – can take the time to have whispered private conversations with their Creator.

From: Drunkards vs. Angels: Of Yetzer Anthropology and Sachar Agnosticism by Rabbi Shlomo Zuckier (SBM 2012)

We can never know the degree of someone else's challenge to follow any particular Halakha, or even Halakha overall.

From: Cast Aside But Not Abandoned by Benzion Chinn (SBM 2003)

More than any promise to any righteous ancestors, it is God's promise to Israel's sinners that gives me faith that we too will not be abandoned.

From: A Look of טומאת מת by Rabbi Jared Anstandig (SBM 2011)

Our innate sanctity as people is not based on commandedness or religion. Our potential to change, grow, and develop endows each of us, as people, with an internal holiness.

From: Fear of Others and Its Consequences by Judah Kerbel (SBM 2015)

With awareness of our own history, hopefully we will cultivate sufficient self-awareness to not allow fear to guide us towards an unwarranted hatred of others.

From: Counting and Remaining Uncounted by Aliza Libman Baronofsky (SBM 2006)

For a God committed to His people's welfare, no detail is too small to escape His care and notice.

From: VeShinantam LeVanecha by Rabbi Alex Zaloum (WBM 2016)

No matter the context, teaching Torah starts with a connection between rav and talmid — one that is comparable to the deepest human connection that exists.

From: Torah at the Core by Batsheva Leah Weinstein (MA 2015-2016)

The builders of the *Eretz Yisrael* are the *talmidei chachamim* because the land can only be built and survive on Torah.

From: Taking the Hard Way Out by Rabbi Joshua Strulowitz (SBM 2000)

Our land and our people are our most valuable resources, and we need to have trust that Hashem will help us cultivate both. When we do so, we fully maximize the potential of our people and our land.

From: Going to War with Biblical Monsters by Benzion Chinn (SBM 2003)

When dealing with the Torah, it is important to face problematic texts head on. This enables us to see how Torah morality undercuts the apparent morality of its own legal structure.

From: The Security and Continuity of Torah by Judah Kerbel (SBM 2015)

No matter who the leader is, the Jewish people and its leadership structure will be preserved through the authority of the Torah.

From: Certain Doubt by Adena Morgan (SBM 2011, 2013)

Although Chazal generally reaffirm God's perfect judgement they also give voice to the doubts we all have when looking at a complicated world.

From: Seven Wanderers by Matthew Kritz (SBM 2018)

In wandering... you show that your true home is not the place you are from, but the people you are from.

From: Are We Not Worse Than Angels? Reflections on Human Complexity by Eliana Yashgur (SBM 2017)

Rather than a strict proper truth of Heaven, the physical world contains its own Truth defined by the ability of Divine life to translate to mortal life.

From: Was Lot Worse Than Esav? Parallels, People(s), and Property by Davey Schoenberg (SBM 2018)

Negating the agency of other people must not be tolerated.

From: The Value of Entertainment by Michael Pershan (SBM 2009)

When we are truly paying attention, we are more attuned to our moral and religious values.

From: Making Marriage Better: Yosef's Private Life and Jewish Identity by Zachary Ottenstein (SBM 2018)

It is often what Jews do in their private lives that are the greatest causes for pride, and the factors that most distinguish them from negative surrounding cultures.