

MAHARAT ANNUAL REPORT

2022-2023/5783



LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Friends,

Maharat is grounded in the pillars of *ללמוד וללמד* (learning, teaching, upholding, and doing). These pillars animate my vision of Maharat; they enliven every element of our work, inform the way our students and our graduates create a more loving world with a loving Torah, *תורתך באהבה*, at its center, and provide direction and inspiration for our programs and initiatives.

lilmod (learning)

Maharat is first and foremost an institution of serious Torah study. This year we expanded our faculty, enriched our Center for Lived Torah and alumnae programming, and grew our newly launched Maharat Ba'Aretz, serving the nearly 30 members of the Maharat community residing in Israel.

lelameid (teaching)

Maharat students and alumnae serve as a resource for the Jewish community, providing continuing education and connection. We have grown this ethic through our new joint program Tehila: Ein Hanatziv-Maharat Advanced Semikha, for women who are already scholars in Israel.

lishmor v'la'asot (advocacy)

Maharat actively seeks to bring more joy and justice to a broken world through social change that holds fast to tradition with an eye towards innovation. This year we published the fourth volume of Maharat's *Keren Journal*, featuring *chiddushim*, new ideas from students and alumnae committed to asking questions and creating dialogue.

Lilmod u'lelameid lishmor v'la'asot. To learn and to teach, to uphold and to practice, to manifest. This past year, we made a commitment to these values to impart kind Torah in our lives and in our world.

We are grateful for your support this year and are pleased to share Maharat's inaugural Annual Report with you.

B'vracha,



Sarathung

RABBA SARA HURWITZ
PRESIDENT & CO-FOUNDER

IN THE CLASSROOM



In September, Maharat welcomed **32** new students, its **largest incoming class** to date! Eight Core Semikha students, 15 in the Advanced Kollel: Executive Ordination Track, and 9 students in the Beit Midrash Program (in partnership with Yeshivat Chovevei Torah) joined **29** women already learning in Maharat's ordination programs. We concluded our academic year in June at our 11th Annual Semikha Ceremony, where nearly **500** members of Maharat's in person and online communities celebrated the six graduates.



Watch Graduation Highlights
www.yeshivatmaharat.org/2023-graduation-highlights

The Center for Lived Torah, Maharat's home for high level and community learning, offered programs embodying our leadership qualities of learning, teaching, and advocating to manifest a stronger and more inclusive Jewish community and world.



Va'tichtov: She Writes, which amplifies the voices of female scholars in writing, completed its second cycle in December with an interactive program where over 100 participants celebrated our 12 fellows and learned about their writing projects on *halakha*, *midrash*, living texts, and civil law. The third cohort of the program began in August with 13 women who are passionate about elevating women's voices.



Halakha in Action, Maharat's alumnae fellowship for studying *halakhic* topics on the lifecycle, concluded its first two-year cohort focused on marriage and divorce. The 15 fellows embarked on a rigorous course of study and innovation, including five sessions with the International Beit Din.



Senior Spiritual Leadership Cohort, a partnership between Maharat and Beloved, concluded its first year providing holistic support to nine alumnae who are building and sustaining entrepreneurial Jewish communities and projects where they will serve in senior leadership positions. Over the year, the fellows received training and mentorship, a community of peers, and resources to take their pulpits to the next level.

Yeshivat Maharat and Midreshat Ein Hanatziv partnered to launch **Tehila**, a new ordination program for women in Israel offering advanced level learning on Ein Hanatziv's campus. Tehila will welcome its first class this fall, gathering students from across Israel to learn *gemara*, *halakha*, pastoral Torah, and leadership training to grow the field of Orthodox women leaders in Israel.

IN THE COMMUNITY



IN THE CLOUD



Four new high school graduates received the prestigious **Emerging Scholars Award** for exceptional young women who demonstrate a commitment to leadership, spirituality, and Torah learning. Now in its fifth year, the Award has supported 16 women studying in Israel during their gap year.

2023 AWARDEES



MIRIAM GOLDBERGER



NETTA HAAS



CHARLOTTE NAAR



TAMAR ROSENFELD

Emerging Scholars in Israel offered the three 2022 Emerging Scholars Award recipients and seven other extraordinary young women on an Israel gap year community, learning, and leadership through programming with Maharat faculty, alumnae, and other leaders as well as *tiyulim* and a Shabbaton.



EMERGING SCHOLARS IN ISRAEL

The greater community benefited from an up-close experience with Maharat's unique brand of learning. The year-long course on the **Kedushat Levi** offered teachings from Maharat's *chassidut* curriculum and our five-week summer learning program, **A Taste of Maharat**, offered six Maharat learning options, including Talmud, *chassidut*, modern *midrash*, and contemporary *halakha* taught by our esteemed and talented faculty. Over 120 members of the Maharat community participated in weekly learning through these classes.

Nearly 1,200 people learned the Torah portion with Maharat students and alumnae with our weekly "**Insights into this Week's Parsha**" newsletter featuring thoughtful and important *divrei Torah*.



Read our Parsha Blog:
www.yeshivatmaharat.org/thisweeksparsha



Maharat students, alumnae, and faculty raised their voices in seasons 2 and 3 of **MaharatCast**, Maharat's podcast, which were played more than 3,600 times by people from every continent. Season 2 included reflections and musical inspiration from alumnae and students during the month of Elul, and Season 3 featured conversations on the topic: "Female Same-Sex Intimacy in Halakha: A New Approach."



Listen:
www.yeshivatmaharat.org/podcast



Keren Journal: Volume 4, Maharat's scholarly journal, was released online and in print. It includes meaningful and insightful essays ranging from exegesis to spirituality to *halakha* by seven graduates.



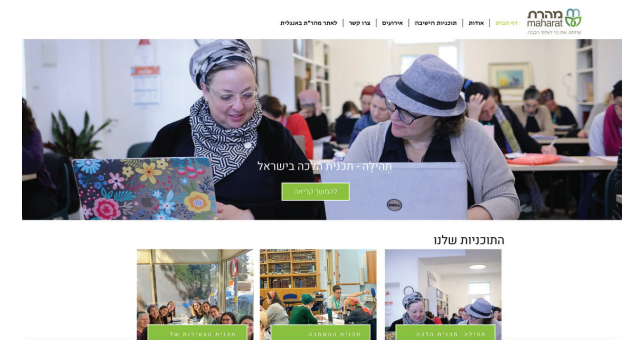
Read:
www.yeshivatmaharat.org/keren-journal-volume-4



Through the Center for Lived Torah, Maharat faculty published **think pieces** on topics ranging from women studying *gemara* to neurodivergent Torah to new angles on understanding Jewish holidays.



Learn:
www.yeshivatmaharat.org/publications



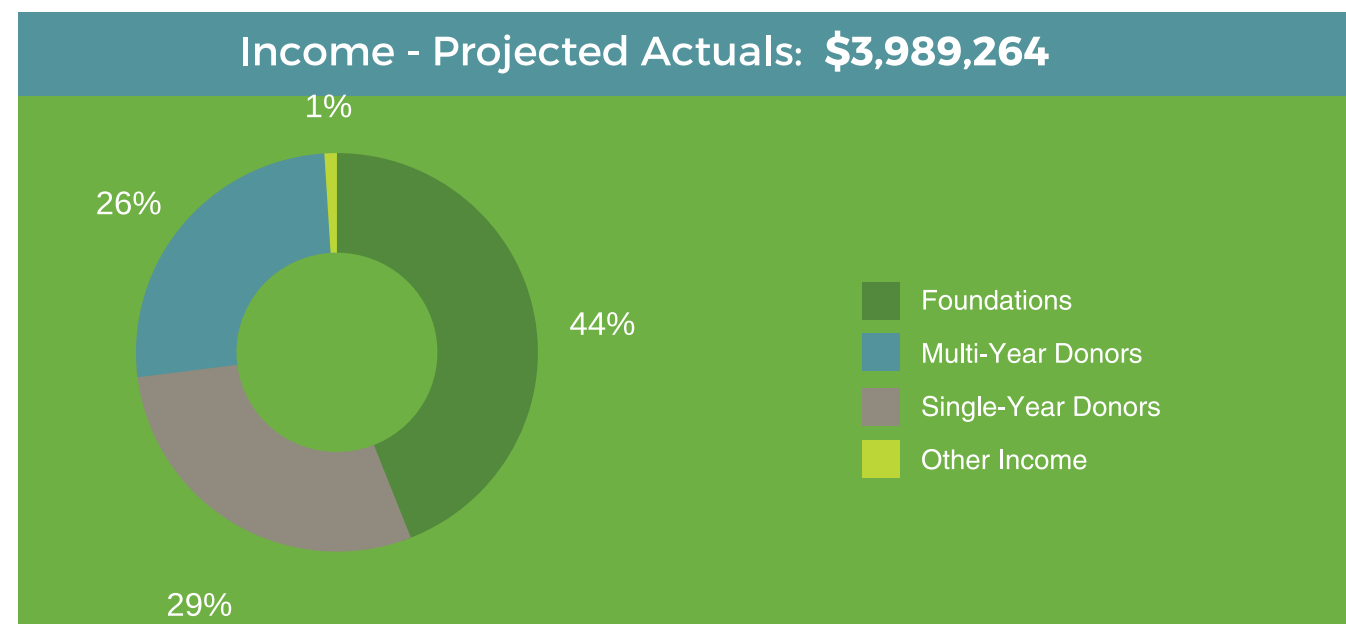
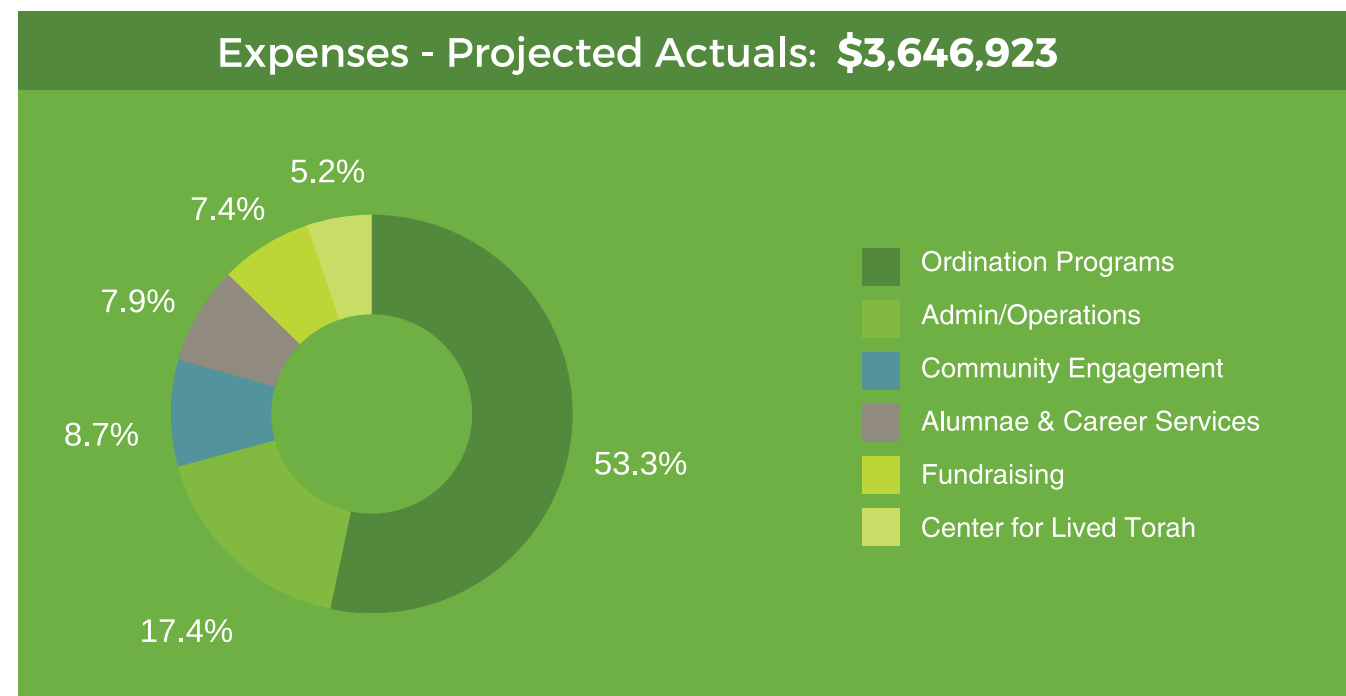
Maharat launched a **Hebrew website**, **maharatbaaretz.org**, to serve the Hebrew speaking community, which includes more than 30 students, alumnae, and faculty members and a growing number of programs and learning opportunities.



Visit:
www.maharatbaaretz.org

FISCAL YEAR 2023 FINANCES

Over the past three years, Maharat has increased its budget by 45% due to the growth of its global student body and outward-facing community and alumnae programming, requiring an increase in faculty and administrative staff. Over 50% of Maharat's budget directly supports the three ordination programs, which include the cost of full tuition scholarships and stipends for all students. Funding to support ongoing professional development has grown to meet the needs of an increased alumnae body, now at 64 graduates.



THANK YOU



We are grateful to all our supporters who have made possible Maharat's work educating, ordaining, and investing in passionate and committed Orthodox women who model a dynamic Judaism that inspires and supports individuals and communities. Here is a list of our major donors.

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