Taking Jewish knowledge
to transform the lives of 35,000 men women and children
in Israel and throughout the world
every day of the year...

That is Jewish impact.
That has been the Schechter way
since its establishment in Jerusalem in 1984.

Responding to a deep need within Israeli society,
Schechter’s mandate remains simple:
To provide tools to Jewish self-discovery
for the vast majority of Israelis
who live in the Jewish homeland
but lack a basic knowledge of their Jewish religion.
And to bridge the great “Israeli Divide”
that separates religious and secular communities
by offering a common Jewish experience
with a pluralistic yet traditional approach.

The Schechter Institutes, Inc. Year in Review
presents the ideas, the people and the places
of 2006-07 which embody the best of
Jewish Impact - The Schechter Way.
“Approaching Israel’s 60th anniversary, those of us old enough to remember the dramatic struggle for the establishment of the State will recall the aspirations that animated that struggle and achievement — the desperate quest for a haven for the disposed remnant of European Jewry, the hunger for self-determination, the drive to reclaim the ancient homeland, and, not least, the conviction that not only Jews but Judaism would flourish on native soil.

Today, Schechter embodies the vision of a Judaism appropriate to a free people in their own land and the best hope that future generations of Israeli and Diaspora Jews will be drawn together in the progressive elaboration of our religious heritage in the modern world. I am committed to the Schechter Institutes because I am a committed Zionist.”

Robert S. Rifkind
Partner, Cravath, Swain and Moore LLP
Chairman of the Board
The Schechter Institutes, Inc.
New York, NY

The challenge of Schechter is simple yet daunting: how do we restore Jewish literacy to the vast majority of Jews in Israel who did not receive a serious Jewish education?

Schechter has accepted the challenge. We believe that every Israeli Jew must also be a knowledgeable Jew. In Israel’s first sixty years, our people miraculously reclaimed Jewish soil. Today, our mission is no less important: to reclaim the Jewish soul.

The Schechter Institute Graduate School, The Schechter Rabbinical Seminary, the TALI Education Fund and Midreshet Yerushalayim are transforming Israel — **through Jewish education**. We are sowing Jewish literacy where there was none, turning Israel’s spiritual desert into fertile ground and thereby fulfilling the verse “They who sow in tears shall reap with songs of joy” (Psalms 126:5).

Prof. David Golinkin
President
Jerome and Miriam Katzin Professor of Jewish Studies
Schechter Institute of Jewish Studies
Jerusalem, Israel
“There is an inherent conflict in defining Israel as a Jewish and democratic State; between balancing freedom of the individual with the prerogative of Jewish Law and custom to mold lifestyle within the private and public realm. Indeed, increasing numbers of young Israelis are grappling with the issue of Jewish identity on a personal level and for society as a whole.

The Schechter Institute is making an important contribution to Israel’s national identity. The studies at Schechter reflect the worldview that Judaism is the sum-total of all Jewish creation: from Biblical times to the Second Temple period, through the Middle Ages, including today’s streams in modern Judaism and Zionism.

At Schechter we are taught that pluralism and creativity are the essence of Jewish Thought; that ongoing interpretation and dialogue guarantee not only Jewish continuity, but the future of Israel as a Jewish and democratic state.”

Ya’akov Tsur
Chairman, Agreco Agricultural Export Co.
Chairman, Schechter Institute Executive Committee
Ramat Gan, Israel

“How true that is of the Schechter Institute of Jewish Studies! The present building may be old and inadequate, but the people who frequent it are an inspiration. Dedicated, caring teachers who are not only outstanding scholars but also relate to their students’ every need; mature students who are prepared to travel long distances in order to benefit not only from Schechter’s unique programs of studies but precisely from the respect and dedication which their teachers display. A remarkable combination, which bears magnificent fruits...”

Prof. Alice Shalvi
2007 Israel Prize Laureate
Member, Schechter Institute and Rabbinical Seminary Executive Committees
Past Rector and President
Jerusalem, Israel
The New Schechter Campus in Jerusalem: The Heart of Jewish Education

Schechter's staggering growth – from five students in the rabbinical school when it opened its doors in 1984 – to 560 graduate and rabbinical students today, and tens of thousands of pupils in TALI schools and Midreshet Yerushalayim branches around the country, points to the resounding success of its educational programs.

Building a new home for the Schechter Institute has become a number one priority. Schechter's current building (a refurbished dormitory built 44 years ago) no longer meets the needs of its rapidly growing student body and roster of programs. Overcrowded classrooms, communal and study areas and library space present an acute problem.

Schechter's new campus, designed by internationally renowned architect and 2007 Israel Prize Laureate, Ada Karmi-Melamede, will be built in two phases:

Phase I: Classroom Building (22,500 sq. ft.) and The Center for Jewish Education (20,000 sq. feet) will solve Schechter's immediate space problems and address the growing demand for its programs. Work has commenced on the Classroom Building. Expected completion date: September 2009.

Phase II: tearing down the existing building; constructing a Library, Synagogue, Campus Center and more.

Physical Projects for Israel’s Spiritual Future

Jerusalem

The Schechter Campus will be located in the heart of Jerusalem, near the Knesset and next to the Israel Museum. Schechter's new campus, designed by internationally renowned architect and 2007 Israel Prize Laureate, Ada Karmi-Melamede, will be built in two phases:

Phase I: Classroom Building (22,500 sq. ft.) and The Center for Jewish Education (20,000 sq. feet) will solve Schechter’s immediate space problems and address the growing demand for its programs. Work has commenced on the Classroom Building. Expected completion date: September 2009.

Phase II: tearing down the existing building; constructing a Library, Synagogue, Campus Center and more.
The Schechter Institutes, Inc. has embarked on two significant capital projects: the New Schechter Campus in Jerusalem and the Schechter Neve Zedek Center in Tel Aviv. Building these two educational complexes guarantees that JewishIMPACT-The Schechter Way will flourish in Israel and beyond. Our educational work is being carried out by exceptional people committed to implementing visionary ideas. They and the communities they serve deserve a place worthy of their mission.

Tel Aviv

Bringing Jewish Soul to the City that Never Sleeps
The Schechter Institute's Neve Zedek Center will help provide for the spiritual renewal of a revived urban area in the heart of secular Tel Aviv. The project, which has been made possible through a generous grant by the Legacy Heritage Fund Limited, calls for the complete renovation of a historic 19th century building and courtyard, to be the new home of the Midreshet Iyun Outreach Program and Kehilat Sinai Masorti congregation, joint projects of the Schechter Institute and Masorti Movement.

Midreshet Iyun is currently the largest non-Orthodox Jewish study outreach program in the Tel Aviv area. Rabbi Roberto Arbib, a Schechter graduate and founder of Midreshet Iyun and Kehilat Sinai, has created an oasis of pluralistic Jewish learning in Tel Aviv's sea of secularism. Founding a congregation in a small building on Bograshav Street in 1992, Rabbi Arbib has been providing innovative programming ever since. The potential for Jewish outreach cannot be realized in the one-room rented facility on Bograshav Street.

New Center will offer Schechter M.A. courses, TALI and Midreshet Yerushalayim Learning
The enlarged premises will offer Tel Aviv residents M.A. accredited courses in Jewish Studies taught by Schechter Institute Faculty, training and Jewish enrichment courses for TALI teachers and Midreshet Yerushalayim courses for Russian-speaking immigrants.

Restoration Plan to Transform 19th Century Templar Hall into a House of Pluralistic Jewish Learning
The Schechter Neve Zedek Center will serve as a Jewish magnet and a model of community outreach for a rapidly developing and trendy neighborhood.

The restored Neve Zedek Center will include:
- Main building with Bet Midrash, classrooms and studios for educational, cultural and academic programs and synagogue sanctuary (8,000 sq. ft.).
- Courtyard with outdoor auditorium and café (4,000 sq. ft.)
- TALI Early Childhood Center (4,500 sq. ft.)
Dr. Guy Miron, Dean of the Schechter Graduate School, is selected to join the Young Scholars Forum of the Israeli National Academy of Sciences.

Jerusalem: Schechter Institute of Jewish Studies celebrates the Groundbreaking Ceremony for its $22 million educational campus, designed by Israel Prize Laureate Ada Melamede-Karmi.

The William Davidson M.A. Scholarships for all first year students allow the Schechter graduate school to grow “from strength to strength,” becoming the second largest graduate program in Jewish Studies in Israel.

Rabbi Dr. Eitan Chikli, Susan and Scott Shay TALI Director General created and taught an introductory course in Jewish Education to 25 secular school principals in the Galilee region.

Development Towns: Schechter provides 20 new M.A. scholarships for teachers from development towns each year.

Clinical Pastoral Education (Chaplaincy) – a first for Israel - is being pioneered by Schechter, with fieldwork taking place at Assaf Harofeh Hospital, a home for the aged, and a psychiatric hospital.

Neve Zedek: The Neve Zedek Center in the heart of Tel Aviv is adopted by the Schechter Institute.

The Sarah Becker Frank Annual Academic Conferences are contributing to the public knowledge on the status of women in Israel. To date, three conferences have been held.

Dr. Bat-Sheva Margalit Stern publishes Redemption in Bondage: The Women Workers Movement in Eretz Yisrael 1920-1939.


The TALI Siddur, Together in Prayer, for pre-school-2nd grade, adapts Jewish liturgy to the world of the child in the 21st century. A pluralistic Siddur for grades 3-6 will be published in the coming year.

I was summoned to Sderot as a troubleshooter for the local community center. I’m overseeing additional defense measures for the schools, assessing missile damage to property, and acting as a liaison between the citizens and the local authorities. If I can make their daily lives easier, I feel I’ve done my job.”

Zohar Michaeli
M.A. student, Jewish Women’s Studies and Family and Community Studies; Community Center Director, Lahavim, near Beersheva; “on-loan” to Sha’ar HaNegev Community Center in western Negev in light of the escalation of missile attacks from Gaza, June 2007
My job is to take music into an empty space and fill it with meaning...like a musical journey toward Judaism. Those who travel with me return to their ‘father’s home’ and to the traditions that still evoke emotion and a sense of belonging.”

Batella Birnbaum
Director, The Jewish Musical Experience; conducts music workshops for parents and children in scores of TALI schools and kindergartens throughout Israel; student, TALI Leadership Training program at the Schechter Institute; seventh-generation Israeli

“The role of the rabbi must be holistic. We must ‘live’ in the total sense of the word within the community, accompanying fellow members from birth to death. This is the traditional role of a community leader.”

Dubi (Dov) Haiyun
Legacy Heritage Rabbinic Fellow; chaplaincy intern working with terminal oncology patients; published poet; tour guide; educator; former editor of Shdemot; established Bet Midrash for parents and children at Kibbutz Mizrah regional high school; facilitates “bridging” workshops for different streams in Judaism
Jerome and Miriam Katzin, from San Diego California, establish the Jerome and Miriam Katzin Presidential Chair in Jewish Studies.

National Women’s Study Days bring 450 Masorti women together twice yearly for Jewish study; a grass roots movement empowering women in four languages.

Modi’in: The city council approves a plan to name new streets after women leaders due to the initiative of Ofira Krakauer, founder of the Modi’in Women’s Council and Schechter M.A. graduate of Jewish Women’s Studies.

Electronic Iyunei Shabbat Torah portion is distributed weekly to subscribers throughout the world, in English, Hebrew and Spanish, in cooperation with the Rabbinical Assembly of Israel, the Masorti Movement and Masorti Olami.

Rabbi Barry Schlesinger, Rabbinical Seminary graduate, President of Israeli Rabbinical Assembly and rabbi of Jerusalem’s Moreshet Avraham, reaches out with social programming to Sderot residents affected by terror from Gaza.

Kiev: The new cultural center (co-sponsored by Masorti Olami) provides Midreshet Yerushalayim programming to hundreds of all ages in the Jewish community of Kiev.

An Academic Conference dedicated to the 40th anniversary of the re-unification of Jerusalem showcases new research on the history, economy, demography, literature and sociology of Jerusalem. Co-sponsors: Schechter Institute and Bar Ilan University.

Close to 2000 Midreshet Yerushalayim program graduates have immigrated to Israel from the former Soviet Union in the last ten years, joining universities, the army and Schechter programs.

Ma’ale Adumim: The first Israeli city to become “Totally TALI” with all six of its State elementary schools joining the TALI national network of enriched Jewish studies.

The MILI intellectual game (with added Jewish content) for Russian-speaking immigrants held national competitions for the major holidays with over 200 participants.

I have a vision of an Israeli society more accepting and tolerant. Will my children arrive in a world with fewer stereotypes? With my heart and soul, I am working toward that goal.”

Tezeta Garmay
M.A. student, Jewish Women’s Studies, TV presenter for Amharic, Israeli television; Youth Counselor; Facilitator for Ethiopian women’s empowerment, Kiryat Gat
I learned I was Jewish in 2000! In seven years, I feel as if I’ve journeyed like Abraham, coming to a new place, discovering my Judaism and building my Jewish identity.” - **Marina**

“The MASA-Midreshet Yerushalayim program was a god-send from heaven! To see a place just one time with your own eyes is better than hearing about it 100 times. This year I lived as a Jew in Israel. For me, this experience was life-changing.” - **Leonid**

Marina Babicheva and Leonid Kantor MASA participants studying in Midreshet Yerushalayim MILI Olami Leadership Program, Jerusalem

Marina  B.A., Sociology; began M.A. in economics; works in marketing research for Comcon, international communications firm, Moscow; will return to Moscow to develop MILI Jewish learning club

Leonid  Helped re-establish the Jewish community in Vinnitsa, Ukraine in the early 1990s; volunteered as a Hebrew and Jewish studies teacher for 15 years while working in computer graphics; will work in Kiev designing Jewish content for the internet

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**Berlin:** Rabbi Gesa Ederberg, Schechter rabbinical graduate, is installed as rabbi of the Oranienburger Strasse Synagogue, the first modern female rabbi to hold a pulpit in Germany.

**Prof. Andre Hajdu,** Israel Prize Laureate for Music and Visiting Professor in the Judaism and the Arts M.A. program, performed with his students for the 2006 graduation ceremony. Schechter is the only non-music school in which he teaches.

**Nazareth:** A new TALI educational program will bring Jewish and Arab Christian pupils together for Bible studies, and visits to synagogues and churches. “Dialogue” is the joint initiative of TALI and the Jerusalem Center for Jewish-Christian Relations.

**TALI Torah Portion Online,** in partnership with the Hebrew University Snunit website, receives 21,000 “hits” per month.

**Juan Mejia,** visiting rabbinical student from JTS and a descendant of Conversos, is compiling a special prayerbook in Portuguese for use by Conversos.
Learning the ‘Talmud Yerushalmi’ in Jerusalem… the ultimate! Before I came, I wasn’t sure how much Americans need Israel. We have our day schools, camps and way of life. Schechter convinced me that spending time in Israel is a necessity for re-energizing the soul…and my Hebrew sky-rocketed!”

Nicole Guzik
JTS rabbinical student in the Schechter one-year program; rabbinic intern, Temple Sinai, Los Angeles; coordinated “Friday Night Live” service; created new prayer book based on two visions: “clarity” (where traditional prayer is choreographed) and “future” where members submit their own prayers

“...The spirit of Schechter is found not just in the books. This place encourages you to listen to the “other.” It leads you to being a better person. It gives you more than just a grade… it gives you peace of mind and a sense of self.”

Desta Tafere
M.A. student, Family and Community Studies, Coordinator, Yokneam Community Center; Adult Education for Ethiopian immigrants, Tiberias
I am certain that my audience, the vast majority being non-observant Israelis, wants to get closer to tradition, but they are afraid to. ‘From the Tanach to the Palmach... and beyond’ is the motto that guides us in the writing of our community center holiday sourcebooks. New sources speak with the old sources in a productive dialogue that says to the reader ‘this text not only links me to my past, it is also a benchmark for improving my future.’

Dr. Ya’acov Maoz
Director, Jewish Heritage Department, National Association of Community Centers, Editor, Special Edition of The Shoah Scroll for Community Centers; part of a Holiday Sourcebook Series published by NACC; Lecturer, TALI Leadership Program, Schechter Institute; Ph.D., Midrash and Philosophy, Hebrew University
The Graduate School

Chairman of the Board: Robert S. Rifkind
Chairman of the Executive Committee: Yaakov Tsur
President: Professor David Golinkin, Jerome and Miriam Katzin Professor of Jewish Studies
Vice President for Finance and Administration: Liat Citron
Vice President for Development: Eitan Cooper
Dean: Dr. Guy Miron
Highlights 2006-07 Academic Year

Ya'akov Tsur Elected Chairman of Executive Committee
Ya'akov Tsur, Chairman of Agrexco Agricultural Export Co., was elected Chairman of the Schechter Institute Graduate School Executive Committee in January 2007. Mr. Tsur, an outstanding Israeli public figure, served as Member of the Knesset from 1981-1996. During those years he was Minister of Immigration (1985-89), Minister of Health (1989-90) and Minister of Agriculture (1992-1996). A recent graduate of Schechter’s M.A track in Land of Israel Studies, Mr. Tsur is well acquainted with the work of Schechter. In just a few months as Chairman, he has already made a substantial contribution to the public stature of the institute, as well as to its financial status. We wish Ya'akov Tsur continued success in his new position and thank Dr. David Breakstone, out-going Chairman, for his steadfast commitment and on-going support of the Schechter Institute.

Schechter Ranked #2 in Jewish Studies Enrollment
Israel’s Central Bureau of Statistics, in its latest survey on Israeli higher education, ranked the Schechter Institute of Jewish Studies, with 501 students, the second largest M.A. program in Jewish Studies in the State of Israel.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Institution</th>
<th>Number of Students</th>
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<tr>
<td>Haifa University</td>
<td>592</td>
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<tr>
<td>Schechter Institute</td>
<td>501</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bar Ilan University</td>
<td>423</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hebrew University</td>
<td>405</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tel Aviv University</td>
<td>190</td>
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<td>Ben Gurion University</td>
<td>112</td>
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New M.A.’s in Contemporary Jewry and Sephardic Studies
A new M.A. track in Contemporary Jewry was introduced in 2006-07 as a first step in the implementation of the Strategic Plan, adopted by the Board in 2005. The new track combines courses in Zionism, the Holocaust, Modern Jewish Thought and Modern Jewish History. In 2007-08, Schechter will introduce an additional program, Sephardic Jewry and Jews of Islamic Countries, one of fourteen tracks in Jewish Studies taught at Schechter. It is anticipated that this track will draw many students since it is not offered at other Israeli institutions. The track will include courses on Spanish Jewry, Conversos, the history of the Jews of Iran, Iraq, Syria and North Africa and the Status of Jews in Islamic culture.

Successful Use of Media Spurs Recruitment Campaign
Schechter recruited 155 new M.A. students in 2006 - twenty percent more than in 2005. The number of students has more than doubled since the start of this decade. This upward trend is attributed to the annual William Davidson Scholarships to first-year students, the “word of mouth” campaign by graduates and students that remains one of Schechter’s most powerful recruitment tools, and most recently, the effective utilization of the media for increased exposure. In 2006-07, radio advertising bolstered a two-month ad campaign on Jerusalem buses, full-page ads in a national chain of local newspapers, direct mail and a number of “Open House” days at Schechter where potential students met with academic advisors at length.

Scholarships for Ethiopian Immigrant Students
Special efforts were made this year to attract students from the Ethiopian immigrant community. Scholarships were awarded to four students, all of whom are educators and community workers. This M.A. program is designed to train young leaders to act as facilitators and tutors with families experiencing social and economic difficulties.

JTS’s Davidson School of Education: Return Trip to Schechter
The Schechter Institute, for the third year, sponsored a seminar for thirty students of JTS’s Davidson School of Education, which took place from late December to early January. The three-week session was coordinated by Dr. Alex Sinclair of JTS and Rabbi Shlomo Tucker, Associate Dean of the Schechter Rabbinical Seminary.

Library News
Data Retrieval System Upgraded
In February 2007, the library introduced an upgrade of its catalogue software system. The new system - Sefer - will not only enhance search capabilities and create a more user-friendly environment, but most importantly, it will computerize the circulation system. The system will be operational for the 2007-08 academic year.

Acquisitions
The library received a donation of books from the collection of Rabbi Eugene Wiener z”l, donated by Mrs. Yehudit Rand, of Tel Aviv. It also received a donation of books from the collection of
Shimon and Josie Arbel, Jerusalem. Shimon is the former Director General of the Schechter Institute.

The library is working closely with the family of Prof. Uriel Tal z”l in creating a memorial case to highlight Prof. Tal’s impressive collection of 2000 books that was donated from his private library in 2005.

Library Cramped for Space
Shortage of space has forced the Schechter Institute to relocate part of the library collection to the building’s lower level bomb shelter. This acute shortage will be remedied when the classroom building is completed in the summer of 2009.

Schechter Commencement Exercises
Forty students received their M.A. degrees at the second graduation of the Israeli accredited M.A. program on November 29, 2006. Also conferred were the annual Rifkind-Meresman Fellowships for Academic Excellence and the Prof. Alice Shalvi Scholarships. Since the program began in 1990, 790 Israeli educators and rabbis received an M.A. degree from Schechter.

Academic Conferences

The International Society of Franz Rosenzweig Scholars held its bi-annual international conference, Faith, Truth and Reason, in Jerusalem in September 2006. Organized by Dr. Yossi Turner, from the Schechter Institute and Dr. Yehoyada Amir from HUC-Jerusalem, the conference brought together over fifty scholars from the USA, Europe and Israel.

A book launching of Redemption in Bondage: The Women’s Workers’ Movement in Eretz Yisrael 1920-1939, by Dr. Bat-Sheva Stern, took place in October 2006. The event was co-sponsored by the Schechter Institute and the Ben Zvi Institute, co-publishers of the book.

An evening devoted to the new edition of Rabbi Hayyim Hirschenson’s Malki Bakodesh, Volume 1, edited by Dr. David Zohar, was held at the Schechter Institute in December 2006. Schechter co-sponsored the event with co-publishers Bar Ilan University and the Hartman Institute.

The annual academic colloquium of Bar Ilan University, the Catholic Theological University in Utrecht, Holland (KTU) and the Schechter Institute on “Jewish and Christian Perspectives” took place at Schechter and Bar Ilan in January 2007. Prof. David Golinkin and Dr. Yossi Turner were on the planning committee. The Proceedings of the Conference will be published by E.J. Brill of Leiden.

The Annual Rabbi David Aronson Memorial Symposium, held in March 2007, was devoted to Responsa Literature in honor of Prof. Shmuel Glick’s new book Kuntress Hateshuvot Hehadash, Vol. I, co-published by Schechter, The Schocken Institute and the Bar Ilan Law Faculty.
Jerusalem, Capital of Israel: Historic and Current Perspectives, the only academic conference held in Israel to honor the 40th Anniversary of the Reunification of Jerusalem, was conceived and planned by Schechter’s Dr. Yair Paz. Co-sponsored by Bar Ilan University, the conference took place in May 2006.

The Third Annual Sarah Becker Frank Conference on Jewish Women’s Studies, A Stone in the Glass Ceiling: Jewish Women’s Leadership, took place at the Schechter Institute in June 2007. The conference was planned and chaired by Prof. Renée Levine Melammed.

Prizes

Liebhaber Prize
The 10th Annual Marc and Henia Liebhaber Prize for Religious Tolerance was awarded at the graduation on November 29th to Devorah Golan, the founder and Director of the Bamidbar Bet Midrash and outreach center in Yeruham. The tenth year of the prize was celebrated by a panel discussion with the previous winners; their remarks were published in a special bi-lingual booklet entitled Israel as a Pluralist State: Achievements and Goals, edited by Prof. Alice Shalvi and Linda Price.

Kekst Faculty Fellowship
Dr. Shula Laderman was selected as the ninth Kekst Fellow for 2007-09. As academic advisor to the Judaism and the Arts track, Laderman is a lecturer in the Graduate School. Her book God’s Blueprint of Creation: A Shared Pictorial Model in Jewish and Christian Art has been accepted for publication by Brill in Leiden. Rabbi Dr. Einat Ramon, outgoing Kekst Fellow, published A New Life: Religion, Motherhood and Supreme Love in the Works of A. D. Gordon with Carmel Press in May 2007.

Schechter’s academic community has benefited greatly from the Kekst Fellowship and expresses its deep appreciation to Gershon and Carol Kekst who established the fellowship sixteen years ago.

Research Institutes

The Center for Judaism and the Arts
The Center for Judaism and the Arts was established in 2001 to enrich the culture of Jewish life in Israel and includes the M.A. track in Judaism and the Arts and the Judaism and the Arts Curricula Writing Project for TALI Schools.

Highlights 2006-07
The M.A. track in Judaism and the Arts continues to be a popular M.A. program, with 55 students majoring in the field and hundreds of students opting to take elective courses.

» The relationship between Judaism and the Arts was highlighted at a special study session sponsored by The Adi Foundation.

Students and faculty were given copies of the foundation’s book, Borders of Sanctity in Art, Society and Jewish Thought, ed., Emily Bilski and Prof. Avigdor Shinar. Prof. David Golinkin opened the event with a lecture on Conflicting Trends in Rabbinic Attitudes to the Plastic Arts, December 2006.

» Schechter was transformed into an “art venue” with student exhibits and presentations including “Exodus” Lech Lecha,” an exhibit of student works from the Handmade Midrash Class, taught by Dr. Jo Milgrom.

“Arts and Judaism” Website on Tel Aviv University Portal
The “Arts and Judaism” Website, a joint project of Schechter’s Center for Judaism and the Arts and the TALI Education Fund, has found a home with the Center for Educational Technology of Tel Aviv University (Matach) which will place on its portal the electronic archive, used by tens of thousands of Israeli teachers.

The website, an electronic archive of 4,000 works of art donated by Schechter faculty member Dr. Jo Milgrom, will provide an extraordinary resource tool integrating the arts and Judaism for educators, academics, rabbis and students in Israel and around the world. Target date for completion of the project is Fall 2009.

Milgrom Exhibits at Jerusalem Theatre
Dr. Jo Milgrom, veteran faculty member of the Arts and Judaism M.A. track, exhibited her unique collection of assemblage sculptures, “New Things and Old Beloved,” at the Jerusalem Theater during November and December 2006. A catalogue of the collection was also produced.
Building Plans: Art Gallery and Studio

The classroom building of the New Schechter Campus, scheduled for completion in July 2009, will house an art gallery for permanent and visiting exhibits, as well as for Schechter student-inspired artwork. An art studio will be available for workshops and coursework conducted within the framework of the Judaism and the Arts M.A. program.

The Center for Women in Jewish Law

The Center for Women in Jewish Law, since its inception in 1999, has been devoted to researching, publishing and educating the public on the rights of women from the perspective of the Jewish legal tradition. The Center, through its seven Hebrew-English issues of Jewish Law Watch, and its magnum opus Za’akat Dalot (The Cry of the Wretched): Halakhic Solutions for the Agunot of our Time, has advanced Jewish law advocacy research in the area of agunot (women whose husbands refuse them a writ of divorce and whose cases have dragged on in Israeli rabbinic courts).

A new popular series of booklets, To Learn and To Teach, investigates other issues related to women and Jewish Law. Distributed to targeted populations throughout the world in five languages, each booklet is devoted to a specific topic on the status of women in Jewish Law.

Publications 2006-07

To Learn and To Teach #4: Prenuptial Agreements: A Solution to the Agunah Problem of Our Time, March 2007, was published simultaneously in Hebrew, English, French, Spanish and Russian.

All center publications are available for purchase online at: www.schechter.edu and some can be downloaded for viewing at www.ResponsaForToday.com.

In preparation: To Learn and To Teach #5, The Separation of Menstruants from Prayer and the Synagogue, Fall 2007.

Outreach 2006-07

Rabbis Diana Villa and Monique Susskind Goldberg, senior researchers at the Center, represent the Center on public committees and advocacy groups in Israel and overseas that focus on women’s status in Jewish law. Rabbi Diana Villa continued to serve as chairperson of the Halakhah committee for ICAR (International Coalition for Agunah Rights) in 2006-07, and also represented the Center on the coalition.

Legal Victory: Rabbinic Court Nominees Anulled

The Center for Women in Jewish Law was one of the signatories on an appeal to the Supreme Court seeking an annulment of nominees to Israel’s rabbinic courts. The appeal was accepted and the selection process begun again. Rabbi Diana Villa joined ICAR in creating public awareness by meeting with Knesset members and attending meetings of the Knesset’s Committees on “The Status of Women” and “Constitution, Rules and Law.”

Center’s Work Highlighted at Limmud, England

Rabbi Diana Villa brought the plight of agunot to the public’s attention at the annual Limmud Conference in Nottingham, England, which took place in December 2006. She screened the movie “Mekudeshet” (featuring three cases of agunot), followed by a discussion. In a separate lecture, Rabbi Villa presented preventive solutions to the agunah problem with a lecture on Pre-Nuptial Agreements.

“Podcast” on Limmud LA website

Rabbi Diana Villa delivered Halakhic Solutions to the Agunah Problem as a “podcast” commentary to Parashat Mishpatim for LIMMUDPOD, a Los Angeles-based website featuring local and guest rabbis’ teaching via a taped message. To view the lecture, visit: http://limmudla.org/podcast/2007/02/16/diana-villa-on-aguna.

French Journal Features In-depth Article on Agunot

Rabbi Susskind Goldberg published a ten-page article on agunot in the French quarterly Pardes, Spring 2007.

Canadian Radio on Agunot

Canadian Radio (CBC) interviewed Rabbi Diana Villa on Solutions to the Agunah Problem in February 2007.

Study Day Planned for Prenuptial Agreements

Rabbi Diana Villa, together with Yalta members, (organization of women rabbis and rabbinical students), is organizing a Study Day on Prenuptial Agreements for Masorti rabbis, October 2007.

The Institute of Applied Halakhah

The Institute of Applied Halakhah was founded in 1997 in order to publish a library of Halakhic literature in Hebrew, English, and Russian for Jews throughout the world.

Books published in 2006-07

Insight Israel: The View From Schechter, Second Series, Prof. David Golinkin, Jerusalem: Schechter Institute, 2006

Kuntress Hateshuvot Hehadash, Vols. 1 & 2, Prof. Shmuel Glick, a new bibliography of the Responsa literature, co-published with the Bar Ilan Law Faculty and the Schocken Institute, 2006-07

Malki Bakodesh, Vol. 1, by Rabbi Hayyim Hirschenson, ed. by Dr. David Zohar, co-published with the Hartman Institute and Bar Ilan University, 2006

Taking the Plunge: A Practical and Spiritual Guide to the Mikveh, by Rabbi Miriam Berkowitz, Schechter Institute, 2007
Schechter Rabbinical Seminary

Chairman of the Board of Governors: Rabbi Prof. Ismar Schorsch
Chairman of the Executive Committee: Rabbi Professor Hanan Alexander
Dean: Rabbi Dr. Einat Ramon
Highlights 2006-07

New Rabbis...New Rabbinical Students

Four Israeli rabbinical students entered the Schechter Rabbinical Seminary (SRS) Israeli program in September 2006. A fifth student who is a new immigrant and educator with Midreshet Yerushalayim-Ukraine, completed a preparatory year in 2006-07.

Four rabbis were ordained at Schechter’s 19th Ordination Ceremony held in Jerusalem on November 29th, 2006:
- Dr. Jonathan Fina serves as a lecturer and researcher at the Herzliya Interdisciplinary Center, as well as a teacher of overseas students at the Hebrew University and Ben Gurion University. He teaches a course on the Arab-Israeli conflict to Schechter Rabbinical Seminary overseas students.
- Hana Klebansky, the first woman from the FSU (aliyah from Tbilisi, Georgia) to receive Conservative ordination in Israel, is a Midreshet Yerushalayim lecturer for new immigrants and a TALI rabbi in two schools. She is also enrolled in Schechter’s chaplaincy program and is involved in developing a creative Bet Midrash program in Jerusalem’s Kiryat Menachem neighborhood for Russian-speaking immigrants.
- Jean-Claude Suder, a native of France, returned to Paris where he is engaged in Jewish educational activities for the young.
- Orit Winboim is working towards establishing a Conservative congregation in her home community of Moshav Beit Hanina, where she conducts Bat/Bar Mitzvah classes and a monthly Rosh Hodesh class.

Ordination 2007

Five students will be ordained at the Ordination Ceremony in Jerusalem on December 9, 2007:
- Haya Becker
- Roni Klein
- Eli Malhi
- Judith Rubin
- Gali Snir

TALI Rabbis take Judaism to the Schools

The TALI School Rabbis program sent 21 TALI rabbis to 31 schools and 15 pre-schools, including six Tel Aviv schools. Entering its sixth year in Fall 2007, the program reflects the ideal integration and application of Schechter education in the field, under the direct supervision of TALI Education Fund staff. The rabbis teach classroom lessons and work with teachers and TALI pedagogic counselors to help enhance the Jewish environment in the schools. Throughout the country, the TALI rabbi is transforming the image of rabbi in Israeli society.

Schechter Rabbis Impacting on Jewish Education

Since 1988, Schechter has ordained 69 rabbis for leadership roles in Jewish community life as pulpit rabbis and Jewish educators. The scope of their work as well as their educational impact increases with each new class of graduates.

Israel: Congregational Rabbis: 24
- TALI-School Rabbis/Pedagogic Staff: 13
- Schechter Faculty: 8
- Midrashet Yerushalayim Lecturers: 4
- Schechter Researchers: 3
- HUC Faculty: 4
- Jewish Organizations: 10
- Retired or Working in Another Field: 6

Europe: Congregations in France, Italy, Germany and Britain: 6

Asia: Congregations in Japan, Hong Kong and Australia: 3

Americas: Congregations and day schools: 5 in North America, 1 in Brazil: 6

* Rabbis may be working in more than one position.

Schechter Grad named new Masorti Olami Head

Rabbi Tzvi Graetz will assume the post of Executive Director of Masorti Olami (World Council of Conservative Synagogues) and MERCAZ Olami on October 1, 2007. Masorti Olami oversees the development of Masorti/Conservative activity outside of Israel and North America. Rabbi Graetz was ordained by the Schechter Rabbinical Seminary in 2003, was the spiritual leader of Kehilat Shevet Achim in Jerusalem for four years and also served as a TALI school rabbi. We wish Tzvika much luck in his new position.

New Curriculum: Hebrew Culture with Halakhah

A new Rabbinical Seminary curriculum has been initiated to emphasize the relevance of Halakhah in modern Jewish life. The curriculum focuses on Biblical exegesis and theology, Talmud and Halakhah, Jewish history and practical rabbinics. Practical rabbinics includes guided practicum training in congregations, schools and hospitals, study of the liturgy/nusah, Jewish education, pastoral counseling and administration. New 2006-07 courses taught by Professor Avraham Shapira, Spiritual Journeys in Zionism, and Dr. Menachem Ben Shalom, Establishing Community Batei Midrash in Israel, emphasize applied rabbinics for modern Israeli society.

1. Rabbi Gssa Edelberg installed as the rabbi of Berlin’s egalitarian Conservative congregation, Oranienburger Strasse Synagogue
2. Elul Workshop on Spirituality and the High Holidays for rabbinical students
3. Schechter Rabbinical Seminary 2006 ordainees, from left: Orit Winboim, Jonathan Fina, Hana Klebansky and Jean-Claude Suder
4. From left: Cecil Asekoff, National Association of Jewish Chaplains presents certification to rabbinical student David Touboul, with the participation of Rabbi Eitan Ronan
5. Chaplaincy students Dubi Hayun and Michal Schwartz aiding an oncology patient hospitalized in Asaf Harofe Hospital
6. Overseas rabbinical student, Juan Mejia from JTS and Moshe Smolkin, from AJU
7. Morning prayers near the Western Wall honoring William Davidson and his gift of a new Torah Scroll
8. Texts meet cyberspace in the Bet Midrash
9. Tu B’Shevat Seder for Schechter faculty and students
10. Interfaith delegation from Germany meets with Rabbi Eitan Ramon to discuss common theological issues
Berlin’s First Female Rabbi
Rabbi Gesa Ederberg was installed as the rabbi of Berlin’s Conservative congregation, Oranienburger Strasse Synagogue, in June 2007. Rabbi Ederberg’s appointment is politically significant, in that it represents the first time the Juedische Gemeinde, the political entity that governs Jewish life in Germany, has seen fit to appoint a woman as one of its communal rabbis. It also represents a return to a pluralistic German-Jewish community structure; one that has not existed since before the Holocaust. Ederberg studied at the Schechter Rabbinical Seminary where she was ordained in 2002. We wish Gesa, a member of SRS’s Board of Governors, much success in her new and challenging position in Europe’s fastest-growing Jewish community.

Overseas Students Volunteer in Israel
A required “year at Schechter” is an integral curriculum component of all rabbinical schools affiliated with the worldwide Conservative Movement: The Jewish Theological Seminary in New York, the Ziegler School of Rabbinic Studies (American Jewish University) in Los Angeles, and the Seminario Rabínico in Buenos Aires. In 2006-07, student volunteer work focused on the Conservative world in Israel, including Masorti congregations, TALI schools, Ramah-Israel, Conservative Yeshiva’s Learning Community, Masorti Conversion Institute, and work with immigrants through Midreshet Yerushalayim.

Iyunei Shabbat Now in Spanish
Iyunei Shabbat, located at www.schechter.org.il, and distributed weekly by email, is a Torah Portion commentary published by the Schechter Rabbinical Seminary in conjunction with The Rabbinical Assembly of Israel, the Masorti Movement in Israel and Masorti Olami. Iyunei Shabbat appears in English, Hebrew and Spanish. A French edition is planned for the future.

Mentoring in Masorti Kehillot
Rabbinical students worked closely with veteran rabbis, gaining hands-on experience in the communities of Omer and Kiryat Bialik with rabbis Michael Graetz, Tamar Eldad-Appelbaum and Mauricio Balter. Students conducted services, gave sermons and prepared youngsters for Bar/Bat Mitzvah ceremonies.

Davidson Dedication of Torah Scroll with Rabbinical Students
Israeli and overseas rabbinical students joined Schechter benefactor, William Davidson of Detroit, for morning services near the Western Wall in October 2006. They read from a new Torah scroll. Mr. Davidson had donated to the Davidson Archeological Park.

Milestones
We congratulate Professor Hanan Alexander, Chairman of the Executive Committee, upon his appointment as a full Professor of Education at the University of Haifa. May he go from strength to strength!

New Programs…New Initiatives

Legacy Heritage Rabbinical Fellowship Program
The Schechter Rabbinical Seminary has established the Legacy Heritage Rabbinical Fellowship Program. Over the next four years, twelve of its 2nd year rabbinical students (3 each year) will be selected as fellows, based on their abilities and commitment to developing new Masorti congregations in Israel. They will receive scholarships for the final three years of their studies, and fellowships for their first three years working in communities. The Program will prepare rabbinical students to enhance the quality of life in towns and cities throughout Israel. A further component of the program provides enrichment and guidance to lay leaders in the communities where the Rabbinical Fellows will be working.

Hospital Chaplaincy Program: Breakthrough in Medical Services
Mid-way through the two-year course in pastoral care and crisis intervention, the hospital chaplaincy program is scoring a breakthrough in medical services offered in Israel. Six rabbinical students carried out pastoral work in July-August 2006 in the Oncology Department at Asaf Harofe Hospital, Eitanim Psychiatric Hospital and Idan Hazahav Senior Residence. The Idan Hazahav residence received the Glickman Prize for Quality and Excellence due to the work of Schechter students. During the summer of 2007, internships took place at both the Oncology Department and Dialysis Unit at the hospital, Neve Hanna Boarding School and the Idan Hazahav Senior Residence. Coursework for the program which rewards one unit of clinical pastoral care took place in two eight-week summer courses (2006 and 2007) and a year-long course.

We warmly support the program…”

To the Schechter Rabbinical Seminary,

The field of spiritual care is still in its first steps in the medical profession nationwide, however, there is growing interest in symptom management and palliative care… The introduction of the program to our services was exceptionally well timed and appropriate. Program participants were challenged with the translation of a foreign professional tradition to local conditions. They made remarkable progress in that respect…

In view of our positive initial experience and the obvious need to develop a locally trained cadre for the establishment of pastoral care services in Israel, we warmly support the program and appreciate its importance. Indeed, based on feedback from our patients, a permanent expansion of the services we provide to include spiritual care would be a welcome addition.

Respectfully,
Jonathan Grunfeld, M.D., Director, Institute for Oncology
Asaf Haftofeh Medical Center, Zenfin, Israel
Jewish Impact
The Schechter Way

TALI Education Fund

Chairman, Board of Directors and Executive Committee: Prof. Haim Be’er

The Susan and Scott Shay Director General: Rabbi Dr. Eitan Chikli
NEWS! Six New Schools, Nine Pre-Schools to Join TALI

The TALI school network continues to grow as increasing numbers of public school principals and teachers, parents’ committees, city councils and education boards opt for TALI education. In 2007-08, six new schools, two in Jerusalem, Meiravim Regional School (northern Negev), Jaffa, Kiryat Ata and Kiryat Motzkin, and nine pre-schools will join TALI. An additional eight schools (mainly from the north) will provisionally join TALI in a preparatory year.

Highlights 2006-07

Galilee Schools Keen on TALI

25 principals from schools throughout the Galilee, in conjunction with the Ministry of Education, participated in courses on “Teaching Judaism in Public Schools” in 2006-07. As a result of this exchange, seven schools have opted to maintain close contacts with TEF that will lead to full inclusion in the program next year. The course will continue to meet in 2007-08.

Informal Education

242 hours of informal education programming reached 6500 students in twenty schools. Activities included the “Pinat Shirashim” workshops in Kibbutz Gezer on “All Jews are Responsible for One Another,” holiday workshops and Bar/Bat mitzvah seminars. New programs are being developed and scripted by the TALI Curriculum Department, in conjunction with institutions such as the Bible Lands Museum and the Diaspora Museum.

The TALI Rabbi

21 TALI rabbis worked in 31 schools and 15 pre-schools on a regular basis, reaching over 10,000 children and over 6,000 parents. Rabbis organized dozens of school community Tu B’Shvat Seders, Megillah readings and group Bat Mitzvah celebrations.

Four professional development seminars for TALI rabbis were organized in cooperation with the Schechter Rabbinical Seminary and the Hebrew Union College.

TALI Textbooks

Five new TALI textbooks and one CD were produced: The World of Prayer, Teacher’s Guide, Grades 3-6; Holidays and Festivals, Vol. 2, Grade 3; Bible Stories with Values, pre-school-Grade 2, French ed., Open Up the Gate, Voices of Prayer+CD, pre-school-Grade 2, French ed., A Drasha for Every Portion, by Dr. Pnina Galpaz-Feller; Together in Prayer: The CD: a series of 3 CDs to accompany the TALI Siddur. Together in Prayer, for pre-school-Grade 2

In preparation: TALI Siddur for Grades 3-6; Bible Stories with Values: A Workbook for the Family; “Mischag” (play on words combining “game” and “holiday” in Hebrew) will present Jewish holidays through a game board, for ages 4-99

To date, a total of 21 TALI textbooks have been published, including a series of five Torah Weekly Portion Textbooks for grades 2-6 which was completed in 2006

More than 10,500 textbooks were sold to TALI schools in 2006-07

Textbook Distribution News

500 copies of A Drasha for Every Portion are being distributed to all Jewish Agency emissaries serving in communities overseas.

1000 copies of To Give with All Your Heart are being given to all high school science teachers in Israel’s public school system.

Distribution of the book, a curriculum on organ transplants and donations, is a joint Ministry of Education-ADI (Israeli Association for Organ Donations) project.

Friends Across the Ocean, a TALI textbook on Israel-Diaspora Relations, will be used in all of Modi’in’s secular and religious public school fifth and sixth grade classes in 2007.

A TALI book catalogue in Hebrew was produced this year to facilitate marketing of the TALI books.

An average of 21,000 monthly “hits” were recorded for the TALI Torah Portion of the Week that is hosted on Galim, a website for elementary schools run by Hebrew University’s Snunit, the largest educational internet gateway in Israel.

Training and Leadership Development

45 TALI principals and lead staff learned at the Schechter Institute as part of the Leadership Development program which is accredited towards an M.A. degree in Jewish studies. A total of 160 principals
TALI Celebrates 30!

TALI: The Freedom to Choose Jewish Education is the TALI Education Fund (TEF) slogan that marked TALI’s 30th anniversary festivities in schools throughout Israel, culminating in a national celebration held in Jerusalem on June 6, 2007. At that event, today’s school principals and teachers, children, parents and TALI staff mingled with the visionary founders. What began in 1976 as a remarkable experiment in pluralistic Jewish studies at the TALI Frankel School in Jerusalem’s French Hill neighborhood, has blossomed into a national school network of 170 public schools and kindergartens – the most successful framework of its kind in Israel – committed to teaching Judaism to non-observant Israeli pupils.

The Devorah and Shraga Genger z”l Prize for Outstanding TALI School Leadership was a highlight of the TALI 30th celebrations. In the presence of Arye Genger and Dalia Bar-Sheshet, Naomi Hacohen and Itay Hacohen and his family, the Genger Prize was awarded to ‘Yehuda Wagner’, principal, and school staff of the TALI Neurim School in Kiryat Bialik.

“TALI – My Jewish Experience” was the theme of a national drawing competition held in honor of the 30th anniversary of the TALI school network. Thousands of children entered the competition, the guidelines of which stressed the values of TALI education. Each TALI school chose one finalist to represent it. The twelve winners of the competition were announced at the anniversary event in Jerusalem and their artwork published in a TALI Hebrew calendar for 2007-08.

and lead staff have completed the Leadership Development program since its inception in 2001. Almost all program graduates are continuing their M.A. studies at Schechter.

13 pedagogic counselors worked with teachers and principals in 48 TALI schools. The counselors are providing resource materials and helping more than 1000 teachers and principals implement the TALI curriculum; twelve of the counselors are Schechter M.A. students or graduates. Ten training seminars were held for the pedagogic counselors at Beit Yotzov, Be’ersheva, and at Schechter.

8 early childhood counselors worked with teachers in 70 TALI pre-school classrooms on curriculum and implementation. All 100 pre-schools held Kabbalat Shabbat and Rosh Hodesh ceremonies.

More than 150 Teachers’ Room Workshops were conducted during the school year, with an additional 20 Summer Seminars held for 700 teachers from 32 TALI schools around the country. Lecturers, many from the Schechter Institute faculty, taught classes designed to enrich the teachers’ Jewish backgrounds and build a common basic vocabulary of Jewish education.
New Programs...New Initiatives
TALI in Tel Aviv
TALI continued to make in-roads in secular Tel Aviv in 2006-07, reaching out to some 2,000 parents and children through a wide range of cultural activities. In 2005, TEF began to work intensively with six Tel Aviv schools to create a school environment in which Jewish culture has a place. Two Schechter-ordained TALI rabbis provided teacher training, parent-teacher learning communities, family education and classroom workshops. Three pedagogical counselors began working with school staffs on integrating Jewish studies into the schools.

Artists’ Bet Midrash Brings “Bibliodrama” to TALI Tel Aviv
A group of 21 Tel Aviv actors and actresses studied Torah with Rabbi Roberto Arbib, as part of his Midsheset Iyun Adult Learning Program. The talented group then turned their energies toward creating educational workshops for school groups around the theme of “The Binding of Isaac.” These “bibliodramas” met with much success in the A.D. Gordon, Tel Nordau and Magen schools.

TALI Interfaith Program in Jaffa
With a mixed population of 50% Jewish students and 50% Arab students, Jaffa’s Weizman School represents a unique opportunity for TALI. Last year, the Tel Aviv municipality turned to TEF to provide pedagogic assistance to the school. As part of an experimental program that was approved this year by the Ministry of Education, TEF will institute TALI curriculum for the Jewish pupils, while the Arab pupils will receive instruction in the Arabic language. TALI elements will include teacher participation in the Leadership Program, teacher-training seminars, and pedagogic counseling for grades K-6.

TALI Bat Mitzvah Program Goes National
A new Bat Mitzvah program piloted in Tel Aviv last year, was introduced in 2006-07 in other TALI schools. The six-session program concluded in a group Bat Mitzvah ceremony and aliya to the Torah, held in the presence of the entire school community – parents, teachers and classmates (boys and girls). TALI counselors and rabbis mentored the girls on entering adulthood, the importance of ceremony and Mitzvah, and gender issues.

TALI “International”
Paris: A TALI school is opening in the heart of Paris in September 2007. Established by Schechter graduate Rabbi Rivon Krygier, with members of his congregation Adath Shalom, the school will follow TALI guidelines and curriculum. In its first year, the school will offer a kindergarten and first grade class, adding an additional class every year. Two TALI textbooks have been translated into French for the early grades.

Mexico City: Four Jewish Day Schools in Mexico City officially joined the TALI world family in September 2007. The TALI Education Fund, with the help of the Jewish Agency, will be involved in creating specialized materials in Spanish and organizing staff seminars and teacher training workshops to be conducted both in Israel and in Mexico for school principals and lead staff.

Encouraging Co-Existence between Arab and Jewish Children
TALI embarked on an exciting new program “Dialogue,” endorsed by Israel’s Ministry of Education, that will foster ties between Arab and Jewish children. In a community-wide school-based initiative, school children and staff will share religious texts, visit synagogues and churches, and exchange personal experiences. In its first stage, the program initiated a number of meetings between principals and teachers of five TALI schools and five Arab Christian schools in Tel Aviv. The Jaffa Center for Jewish-Christian Relations, which works with a network of 44 Christian-Arab schools, is TALI’s partner. In 2007-08, 6th and 8th grade pupils from the participating schools will take part in a series of meetings.

TALI Parental Empowerment: A National Movement
TEF is currently in the process of establishing a TALI parents and teachers organization (PTA), with the objective of creating permanent parents committees on the local, regional and national levels. These committees will strengthen the TALI program and presence within schools as well as on the municipal and national levels, ultimately bringing in more resources needed to run a strong Jewish education component. In 2006-07, two regional and national “Parents’ Forums” were held to set the stage for this initiative.
Midreshet Yerushalayim

Chairman, Board of Directors and Executive Committee: Rabbi Yossie Goldman

Director, Midreshet Yerushalayim – Israel: Dr. Yair Paz

Director, Midreshet Yerushalayim – Eastern Europe and Hungary: Gila Katz
Midreshet Yerushalayim

Celebrating 15! Midreshet Yerushalayim in Israel and Ukraine

Midreshet Yerushalayim celebrated fifteen years of Jewish outreach in 2006. Established in 1991 in response to the massive wave of Russian-speaking immigrants reaching Israel’s shores and to the “lifting of the Iron Curtain” in the former Soviet Union, Midreshet Yerushalayim answered the spiritual needs of these newly emerging Jewish communities searching to re-build a connection with their Jewish roots. Midreshet Yerushalayim, with its open and intellectual approach to Judaism, provided just the right educational and spiritual framework for the Russian-speaking community. In the past fifteen years, thousands of Jews in scores of communities throughout Israel and the former Soviet Union have found a Jewish “home” in the Midreshet Yerushalayim programs.

Midreshet Yerushalayim - Israel

Highlights 2006-07

The Numbers

Forty-seven Jewish education programs operated throughout Israel from Eilat to the Galilee reaching close to 1300 Russian-speaking immigrants of all ages. The year-long programs included:

- Thirty academic courses in fifteen cities throughout Israel for 1800 new immigrants, including three new courses in Israel’s north (Migdal Haemek, Afula and Upper Nazareth) and field trips to historical sites.
- Thirteen MILI clubs with a membership of 500 young adults, including five clubs geared to high school aged players and new clubs in Bat Yam, Bet Shemesh, Ashdod and Yavneh.
- Four “Heritage Trail” (Shvilei Moreshet) year-long seminars for Jerusalem high school and university students.

MILI: A Jewish Outreach Success Story

MILI (Hebrew acronym for Midreshet Yerushalayim for Creative Study), attracts hundreds of young Russians (aged 13-35) to competitions, based on a game played in their native Russia, which solves intellectual riddles in small groups. The MILI innovation adds Jewish content to the questions. Now in its sixth year, the game has scored great success in attracting young Russian-speaking immigrants to a framework that increases their knowledge and experience of Judaism, while providing them with a social support group to ease their absorption into Israeli society.

Today, thirteen MILI clubs, including a national league of five MILI Clubs (over 100 participants aged 13-21) operate in Bet Shemesh, Karmiel, Yavneh, Haifa, Karmiel, Ashdod, Eilat, Jerusalem and Tel Aviv. National competitions for Jerusalem high school and university students.

MILI Methodological Center: Keep those Questions Coming!

The key to MILI’s success lies in the formulation of the questions used in the games. To date, 7,000 questions have been formulated, with about 40% related to Israel and Judaism. Under the direction of Rabbi Baruch Yonin, Schechter Rabbinical Seminary graduate, MILI facilitators meet at the Schocken Institute every Friday to learn and to compose new questions.

MILI website “hits” up 65% The Midreshet Yerushalayim website, www.mili.org.il, continues to gain new readers, with 12,000 monthly visits recorded in 2007, up 65% from the 2006 level of 7,000. The site is a rich resource of Jewish information, offering a weekly Torah portion sheet in Russian with 1,000 visitors a month, half coming from Israel and half from the FSU; an “Ask the Rabbi” column which garners twenty questions a month; a “Jewish Expressions” column which provides a basic introduction to Jewish terms and customs; a MILI dictionary for Jewish religious and cultural expressions; and complete texts of books on Jewish topics published in Russian by the Schechter Institute.

Midreshet Yerushalayim Connects with Conservative Kehilot

Midreshet Yerushalayim was established fifteen years ago to connect thousands of Russian-speaking immigrants to Judaism. The intellectual and modern approach to Jewish learning, taught in Russian, was a perfect match for this highly educated population which was searching for Jewish knowledge and identity, but was frightened by Israel’s religious establishment. Today, many of the groups meet in Conservative congregations and learning centers throughout Israel, including Jerusalem, Ma’ale Adumim, Karmiel, Ashdod, Beersheva, Upper Nazareth, Rehovot, Nesher, Tel Aviv, Haifa, Eilat, Ra’anana, Kfar Saba and Netanya. This also enables the new immigrants to connect with Conservative Judaism through education.

Israel Culture Club

Jerusalem’s Russian-speakers are treated weekly to a potpourri of cultural activities held at the Schocken Institute. The brain-child of Schechter-ordained Rabbi Michael Rifkin and today coordinated by Schechter graduate Rabbi Baruch Yonin, cultural encounters include: Aficionados of Ancient Hebrew Manuscripts Club, with lectures utilizing rare manuscripts from the Schocken collection; Music-Lovers’ Club, which focuses on Jewish and Biblical themes in western classical music; Current Events Club, a group for veteran immigrants interested in discussing modern Jewish culture and a Modern Hebrew Literature Club, which studies Hebrew literature in the context of traditional Hebrew texts and sources.

Israel Culture Club: A Journey Through the Russian-Speaking Experience

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New Programs ... New Initiatives

MILI Goes International...with MILI OLAMI

Ten enthusiastic and talented young adults from the former Soviet Union successfully completed the first half of MILI OLAMI, a ten-month academic course run by Midreshet Yerushalayim in Jerusalem which prepared the group for informal Jewish education leadership roles in the FSU and Germany. The program was run by Dr. Rafi Kassimov, Midreshet Yerushalayim lecturer and Schechter rabbinical student.

The young Russian-speakers, coming from Kazan, Moscow, Heidelberg, Novgorod, Vinnitsa, Donetsk and Kiev, engaged in an academic program of Jewish studies and Hebrew, informal workshops on Creative Midrash, the Jewish Press, Jerusalem through Photography, Jewish Holidays in Informal Education and more, plus an extensive schedule of fieldtrips throughout Israel. The main thrust of the program was to train the group to become MILI facilitators, with the goal of returning to the FSU and Germany to set up a network of MILI clubs. Looking ahead: Plans call for the opening of new MILI clubs in Kazan, Kiev, Heidelberg, Novgorod and Moscow. In Moscow, the MILI young leader will work closely with an active Marom group of young Conservative Jews to establish the MILI club.

MILI and the Big Apple

A MILI club has opened in Brooklyn, New York, with the help of Yan Privorotsky, Schechter graduate and director of MILI programming. Yan traveled to the U.S. in December where he demonstrated a MILI game connected to Chanukah trivia at JCCs with large numbers of Russian-speaking members. The new club is meeting monthly.

MILI Heads for the Great Outdoors

Treasure Hunt: Jerusalem and Her Nine Measures of Beauty is the name of a new pilot game conceived by Yan Privorotsky which takes the MILI concept out of the classroom and into the streets. Implemented for the first time by MILI Olami students (see article above), competing teams were given questions related to Jewish history and culture. Contestants then scouted out clues hidden in unique and out-of-the-way corners of Jerusalem. Unlike the indoors MILI game, participants are allowed to use reference books and the internet to obtain the answers. Deemed highly successful, the new MILI Outdoors Game will debut in other locales in 2007-08.

Psycho-Drama: New Outlet for MY

Alla Kucherenko, a graduate of the Midreshet Yerushalayim community activist program and MY lecturer, launched a pilot program this year based on dramatizing texts from Torah, midrash, and later rabbinic sources. The group of 15 Russian-speakers met a number of times at Schechter. The program received high marks, with a promise to expand it in 2007-08.
Midreshet Yerushalayim - Ukraine

Highlights 2006-07

The Numbers
1,000 children and their families participated in Midreshet Yerushalayim Jewish learning, the only significant non-Orthodox Jewish education in Ukraine, through:

- 15 TALI education frameworks including
- 8 TALI Sunday Schools in Kiev, Chernivtsi, Munkatsh, Khust, Berdichev, Priuli, Kirovograd and Donetsk
- 1 TALI Day School with 320 pupils in Chernivtsi
- 2 schools receiving pedagogical support (Chirka and Nikolaiyev)
- 1 Hebrew high school program in Kiev
- 2 summer camps (Ramah-Ukraine, Ramah-Ukraine Family Camp)
- An eight-day teachers’ training seminar (outside Kiev) attended by 60 teachers of Jewish studies
- 4 pre-Passover model Seders for teachers, students and parents
- 3 High Holiday services held in Kiev, Chernivtsi, Donetsk

New Initiatives … New Programs

Kiev Cultural Center: Outreach Seven Days a Week
Kiev’s new Midreshet Yerushalayim Educational Cultural Center celebrated its first anniversary in January 2007. In one year, the center has become the focal-point for Jewish cultural and intellectual exchange. Run in cooperation with Masorti Olami, the center is open seven days a week, with a host of innovative programs for Kiev’s Jewish community, including:
- A Community Sunday School, comprised of 100 parents and children
- Beit Midrash Havruta
- Jewish Cinemateque and Drama Clubs
- Jewish Literature and Poetry Club
- A Judaism in the Home workshop for mothers, grandmothers and toddlers
- Interfaith Holocaust Study for Catholic and Jewish high school and college students
- Israeli and Jewish Song and Dance Clubs
- Hebrew Ulpan
- Marom Student Movement
- Holiday Arts and Crafts Workshops

Schechter Rabbinical Students Intern in Kiev
Julia Rubinstein-Solomon, a second year rabbinical student originally from Moscow, traveled three times to Kiev in 2006-07 to work with the Jewish community, including leading High Holiday services. In 2007-08, rabbinical student Roman Starnov will make four trips to Kiev as an educator and student rabbi.

Rabbi David Clayman Resource Library Opened
A new Jewish Resource Bookmobile Library named in honor of Rabbi David Clayman z”l, one of the founders of Midreshet Yerushalayim, opened in the Kiev Cultural Center in 2006-07.

The bookmobile is stationed at Camp Ramah-Ukraine during the summer and housed at the Kiev Community Center during the school year. The intellectual hub of the Center, the library is used extensively by students and instructors.

Chernivtsi TALI Day School Wins National Award
The Ukrainian Ministry of Education bestowed their “Model School of the Year Award” to the TALI Chernivtsi Jewish Day School for its exemplary Jewish educational programming. In April, as winner, the school hosted workshops and events for the other twenty Jewish day schools which operate throughout Ukraine. The school has 320 pupils from elementary through high school and hosts family programs, Kabbalat Shabbat and holiday celebrations for the school community.

Two New Community Schools: Kirovograd and Donetsk
Community schools in Kirovograd and Donetsk celebrated a first anniversary in 2006. Established in response to demand from families who had attended Ramah-Ukraine’s family camp, the schools offer a rich program in Jewish experiential learning. In Kirovograd, seventy parents and children learn on Sundays and Wednesdays. In Donetsk, 75 children and 30 parents attend the Sunday study and Friday Kabbalat Shabbat program on a regular basis. Special events for holidays and Shabbat attract even greater numbers.

Forecast 2007-08: Plans for a Community School, based on the Donetsk model, are underway in Odessa, where parents have turned to Midreshet Yerushalayim to provide pluralistic studies for themselves and their children.

Hebrew High School Program Revised
The Hebrew High School program for nurturing young leadership in Kiev has undergone extensive revision with a greater focus on Jewish tradition, Jewish identity, Zionism and the connection to Israel, both through academic courses and informal experiential learning. Twenty-four high school participants joined the program in January 2007. The program venue moved from the Solomon University to Midreshet Yerushalayim’s Cultural Center in Kiev. Meeting in the Center allowed participants to partake of additional cultural programming. Two Shabbat retreats were organized for the young leadership students. In addition, 18 of the 24 students attended Camp Ramah-Ukraine in 2007.

The Marom-Midreshet Connection
Ties between the Marom (Masorti Olami) Student Movement and Midreshet Yerushalayim continue to grow stronger. Marom provides an avenue where young Jewish students socialize, which strengthens Jewish identity. To date, Marom has opened chapters in Midreshet Cultural Centers in Kiev, lvov, Chernivtsi, Kirovograd and Donetsk. All chapters hold Kabbalat Shabbat activities that include prayers and a Shabbat dinner. Many Marom students are involved in Midreshet Yerushalayim activities as teachers and also work as counselors in Ramah-Ukraine summer camps. A Marom Leadership Conference was held August 14-17 near Kiev.

Midreshet Yerushalayim 31
Ramah Camps

Hard to describe the inspiration...

Dear Friends of Ramah,

This week, for the first time, I visited Camp Ramah – Ukraine, at the urging of Rabbi David Golinkin, president of the Schechter Institute. I came to the camp to celebrate their 15th year anniversary. Many of the staff at Ramah-Ukraine echo what I hear frequently at North American Ramah camps: camp gives them a Jewish ‘shot in the arm’ which enables many of them from less observant homes to finally feel comfortable in a total Jewish setting...

It is hard to describe the inspiration I derived from my visit to Ramah-Ukraine: As Jewish leaders in Israel and Ukraine continue to build institutions of Jewish learning, sometimes out of the ashes, Rabbi Mitchell Cohen, Director National Ramah Commission, Inc.

New York

15th Anniversary Celebrations in Jerusalem

Camp Ramah-Ukraine celebrated its fifteenth season this past summer. A moving and emotional ceremony was held at the Schechter Institute in June to honor the founders of this unique camp: Gila Katz, Rabbi Moshe and Margie Tutnauer, Rabbi Yossi Peniri, Rabbi Valerie Stejsin and Prof. Shmuel Glick. This dedicated band of believers took an idea and turned it into an educational reality that has profoundly impacted on the young Jewish population of Ukraine. Thousands of children have graduated the program as campers and then as counselors, with close to 2000 of the graduates making their home in Israel in the last decade, some of whom were able to attend the Jerusalem event where they honored their past teachers. Another celebration was held at the Camp in August in the presence of Prof. David Golinkin, and Rabbi Mitchell Cohen, National Director of Ramah.

Camp Ramah-Ukraine has acquired an outstanding reputation for providing a positive two-week educational and social experience in the countryside for Jewish children and families in Ukraine. Informal Jewish study, religious services, as well as cultural and recreational activities conducted in a scenic setting provide a wonderful model of Jewish living and a welcome break from the harsh economic conditions that characterize life for most Ukrainian Jews. In 2007, 180 children and 34 staff members (seven coming from Israel) explored the theme of God of Abraham, God of Isaac and God of Jacob: Transmitting Judaism from One Generation to the Next.

Ramah-Ukraine Family Camp held its fourth annual camp for children, aged 6-10, and their parents. The 136 “campers of all ages”, with families coming from Odessa for the first time, formed a kehila (community) committed to learning and growing together as one family unit. The experience of the entire family living in a Jewish community twenty-four hours a day plays a vital role in forming Jewish identity, bringing parents and children closer together, and prompting them to observe Jewish ceremonies once they have returned to their homes. A high percentage of parent graduates of the camp take on leadership roles in their local Midreshet Yerushalayim cultural centers.

Midreshet Yerushalayim – Hungary

Visiting Faculty

Midreshet Yerushalayim brings visiting faculty to Budapest’s University of Jewish Studies to conduct intensive seminars in subjects germane to the professional development of Hungary’s future educators, rabbis and community leaders. This year, Prof. Shmuel Glick, Professor of Talmud and Rabbinics at the Schechter Institute of Jewish Studies, traveled to Budapest twice, where he taught Jewish Education and Rabbinic Literature.

The Rabbi Arnold and Noemie Turetsky Scholarship Fund

Marking the third anniversary of the passing of beloved Midreshet Yerushalayim educator and supporter, Rabbi Arnold Turetsky z”l, the fund successfully raised more funds to support the student and faculty exchanges that take place between the University of Jewish Studies in Budapest and the Schechter Institute.

1  Russian-speaking immigrants enrolled in a Midreshet Yerushalayim (MY) learning center meet in Kehilat Hakerem, a Conservative congregation in Karmiel 2  Camp Ramah-Ukraine counselors now living in Israel, celebrate MY’s 15th anniversary with Director Gila Katz (center) in Jerusalem 3  Israeli folk dancing in Donetsk Jewish Community School 4  MILLI National Competition for Jerusalem Day held at the Schechter Institute 5  Camp Ramah-Ukraine 15th anniversary celebrations with guitar accompaniment by Prof. David Golinkin 6  Camp Ramah-Ukraine announces a wedding: Dmitri Chrustalov, veteran MY camper and counselor, today a new immigrant serving in the IDF, returned to camp to propose to Lena Totzyka, a counselor at the camp 7  Group portrait, Camp Ramah-Ukraine, August 2007 8  Roman Stamov, Schechter Rabbinical Seminary student and veteran MY educator, teaches morning prayers to parents and children attending Camp Ramah-Ukraine Family Camp 9  Joining Camp Ramah-Ukraine 15th anniversary celebrations are (from right): Rabbi Mitch Cohen, Director, National Ramah Commission, Gila Katz and Prof. David Golinkin 10  Ramah-Ukraine Family Camp Havdalah service 11  MY learning center in Beersheva’s Conservative Kehilat Eshel Avraham, with teacher Rabbi Michael Kovsan, Schechter Rabbinical Seminary graduate 12  Junior MILI participants (age 13-21) enjoy a competition in Jerusalem 13  Field trip to Tel Aviv-Jaffa for MY students from Karmiel 14  Rabbi Moshe and Margie Tutnauer (left) congratulated by Eitan Cooper, Vice President for Development at the MY 15th anniversary celebrations 15  Youngest members of Ramah-Ukraine Family Camp
Scholarship for the Community
Conservative Congregations Study with the Best of Schechter
The Rebecca Goldstein z”l and Rabbi Noah Golinkin z”l Educational Outreach Program enables Schechter lecturers to teach at Masorti synagogues throughout Israel.


Schechter: Popular Venue for Public Lectures and Conferences
The Schechter Institute hosted a number of lectures and conferences throughout the year that were open to the public:

- Closing the academic year with a panel discussion dedicated to the new publication The Binding of Isaac: Mystical and Philosophical Interpretations of the Bible, by Dr. Alexander Even-Chen.
- Remembrance Day for Israel’s Fallen, lecture by Dr. Menhuha Cohen-Amir, April 2007.
- Holocaust Memorial Day Service and Megillat Hashoah reading, lecture by Prof. David Halivni, April 2007.
- Annual Prof. Saul Lieberman Memorial Lecture, with Prof. David Halivni, chaired by Prof. Shamma Friedman, April 2006.
- The Annual Rabbi David Aronson Memorial Symposium, honoring the publication of Kuntess Hateshuvot Hedadash, Vol. I, by Prof. Shmuel Glick, chaired by Prof. David Golinkin with a lecture by Prof. Shmuel Glick, March 2007.
- An academic colloquium of Bar Ilan University, the Catholic Theological University in Utrecht, Holland (KTU) and the Schechter Institute, International Conference, “Jewish and Christian Perspectives,” Planning committee: Prof. David Golinkin, Dr. Yossi Turner, January 2007.
- The Matt Eisenfeld z”l and Sarah Duker z”l Memorial Service, February 2007.
- “Schechter Artists’ House” Opening with works by Judaism and the Arts M.A. students, coordinated by Dr. Jo Milgrom, January 2007.
- Book launching of Rabbi Hayyim Hirschenson’s Maiki Bakodesh, Volume 1, edited by Dr. David Zohar, chaired by Prof. David Golinkin, December 2006.
- Judaism and the Arts special study session sponsored by The Adi Foundation with a lecture by Prof. David Golinkin, December 2006.
- 10th Anniversary Rabbi Memorial Day Ceremony, Dr. Galia Glasner-Heled, November 2006.
- Shlomo Carlebach Celebration commemorating the rabbi’s 13th yahrzeit, with Dr. David Frankel and Prof. David Golinkin, November 2006.
- Opening of academic year for the faculty with Prof. Albert Baumgarten, “Elia Bickerman as a Scholar of Jewish History.”

Easing Trauma after Lebanese War
Rabbi Paul Shrell-Fox, Schechter graduate, presented a day-long workshop on identifying and Working with Trauma in the Community for Conservative/Masorti rabbis in Israel immediately following the Second Lebanon War in August 2006. The Schechter Rabbinical Seminary and the Rabbinical Assembly organized the session. In the north, Schechter faculty member, Silvia Silberman, conducted a workshop in July 2006 for mental health professionals on Crisis Interventions and Coping with Emergencies.

Schechter Joins Sukkot “Happening”
The annual Sukkot Learning Festival, Hakkel, which took place this year in Tel Hai to demonstrate support for Israel’s north, featured Schechter faculty members Dr. Yossi Turner and Dr. Eitan Ramon who lectured on Responsibility of the Collective vs. the Right of the Individual in Israeli Sources, October 2006.

Eshkol Popular Lecture Series
Jerusalem for the Generations: New Research was an eight-part public lecture series (September 2006–January 2007) organized by Dr. Yair Paz, Schechter’s academic advisor to the Land of Israel Studies M.A. program for the Eshkol Center for Leisure Learning in Ramat Hasharon. Schechter’s lecturers included: Dr. Gaby Barkai, Dr. Tamar Kadari, Dr. Doron Bar, Dr. Michal Oren and Dr. Yair Paz.

Women’s Study Days: Empowerment in Four Languages
450 women made their way to Jerusalem and the Schechter Institute to participate in the 8th Annual National Women’s Study Day held in June 2007. This year’s theme was Jewish Women in Literature: Rabbinic, Shakespearian, Modern. The day’s learning was dedicated to Israeli modern heroine, Prof. Alice Shalvi, and to the memory of educator-teacher, Zipi Heckelman, and was taught in Hebrew, English, Russian and Spanish. Many of the lecturers are Schechter rabbinical graduates and Graduate School faculty members. Sponsored by the Schechter Institute, Women’s League for Conservative Judaism and the Masorti Movement, and organized
by Diane Friedgut, regional study days also took place in three locations in February.

Teachers from the North Learn about Conservative Judaism
Thirty teachers from Israel’s north affiliated with the Oranim Teacher’s Seminary participated in a Schechter-sponsored in-service training seminar in February 2007 which focused on various aspects of Conservative/Masorti Judaism. The program was organized by Rabbi Shlomo Tucker, and taught by Rabbis Einat Ramon, Harvey Meirovich and Tzvika Graetz.

Book Launchings Present Schechter Scholarship to the Public
A panel discussion at Ben Zvi Institute, Jerusalem, was held in honor of Dr. Bat-Sheva Stern’s latest book, Redemption in Bondage: The Women Workers’ Movement in Eretz Yisrael 1920-1939, in October 2006, with an additional book launching at the Open University, Ra’anana, April 2007.

For the release of The Sacrifice of Isaac: Mystical and Philosophic Commentaries of the Bible, by Dr. Alexander Even-Chen, the Midrashet Iyun Study Center in Tel Aviv organized a program in January 2007.

A Spotlight on New Books Panel Discussion in March on Talmud Ha-igud, BT Berakhot Chapter 1, took place at the Van Leer Institute, Jerusalem, with author Prof. Moshe Benovitz and editor Prof. Shamma Friedman.

Bet Hatanakh in Tel Aviv honored Dr. Ptina Galpaz-Feller for Va’Yoled: Relations between Parents and Children in Biblical Stories and Laws.

Prof. Ismar Schorsch, Chancellor Emeritus of JTS, was in Israel for an evening dedicated to his new book, Canon Without Closure: Torah Commentaries at Midreshet Iyun in Tel Aviv, June 2007, sponsored by the Schechter Institute, the Schechter Rabbinical Seminary and Bina Center for Jewish Identity and Hebrew Culture.

World Jewish Communal Service Conference Visits Schechter
Schechter hosted forty participants in Israel for the World Conference of Jewish Communal Service. Rabbis Einat Ramon, Paul Shrell-Fox and Barry Schlesinger discussed the role of JCC as provider of Jewish content, including Schechter’s newest idea to offer a Bet Midrash model to Israel’s community centers.

Commerce Ministry Cadets Get a Lesson in Judaism
Israel’s Ministry of Commerce and Industry turned to the Schechter Institute to provide an introductory course in Judaism for staff in Israeli embassies in Asia and Australia. Rabbi Diana Villa, senior researcher at the Center for Women in Jewish Law and a Schechter Rabbinical Seminary faculty member, met with the group in November 2006.

Pre-Army Teenagers Visit Schechter
Schechter hosted a group of forty high school graduates enrolled in the pre-army preparatory program “Amithai” at Argaman, a community in Israel’s Jordan Valley in February 2007. The group explored The Different Movements in Judaism with an historical overview presented by Dr. Guy Miron, Dean of the Schechter Graduate School, followed by Rabbi Einat Ramon (Conservative), Shlomit Tur Paz (Orthodox), Rabbi Nava Hefetz (Reform) and Rabbi Sivan Mass (Secular Judaism).

Amitei Bronfman - Israeli high school young leaders from around Israel spent an afternoon at Schechter in June 2007 where they learned about Conservative Judaism from Rabbi Einat Ramon.

The Shoah Scroll Read in JCCs Throughout Israel
The Jewish Heritage Department of Israel’s National Association of Community Centers, under the direction of Dr. Yaakov Mazz, co-published a revised edition of The Shoah Scroll with the Schechter Institute. A first printing of 5,000 copies was read in fifty community centers throughout Israel on Yom Hashoah, April 2007.

Conferences, Lectures and Symposia

July 2007

Prof. Hanan Alexander, “History, Curriculum and Higher Education,” Israeli Association for Research of the History of Education, Conference on History and Education in a Society in Crisis, Tel Aviv University and Haifa University, Haifa.

Dr. Brenda Bacon, “Fashioning the Voice of the Bar Mitzvah in Israeli Schools,” Kolech Conference, Jerusalem.


Dr. Guy Miron, “Jewish Identity in Germany,” National Conference for Teachers on Holocaust and Identity, Yad Vashem, Jerusalem.

Dr. Yair Paz, “The Hebrew University at Mt. Scopus as a New Temple,” in-service training lecture to thirty certified tour guides, Ministry of Tourism.

June 2007

Prof. David Golinkin, “Ba’al Hahotem: What Does this Unique Talmudic Nickname Mean?” Eighth International Conference on Jewish Names, Bar Ilan University.


Prof. Shmuel Glick, Chair, Religious Education Conference on History and Education in a Society in Crisis, Tel Aviv University and Haifa University, Haifa.


Dr. Guy Miron, “From Bourgeois Germany to Palestine: Memoirs of German Jewish Women in Israel,” Association for Israel Studies (AIS) Conference, The Open University, Ra’anana.

Prof. Alice Shalvi, Religious Education and Pluralistic Education: Pelech High School 40th Anniversary, Van Leer Institute, Jerusalem.

Dr. Yossi Turner, “Relations Between Jews and Moslems in the Mid-East,” Panel discussion with German Advisor to European Union on Mid-East Affairs, Palestinian Representative to France and exiled Iraqi authors, Nationwide German Protestant Church Festival, Cologne, Germany

May 2007

Jerusalem, Capital of Israel: Historic and Current Perspectives, academic conference honoring the 40th Anniversary of the Reunification of Jerusalem, initiated and organized by Dr. Yair Paz, included a number of Schechter faculty and leadership: Chairs, Prof. David Golinkin, Prof. Alice Shalvi and Ya’akov Tsur; Dr. Doron Bar, Prof. Haim Be’er, Prof. Yehoshua Ben Arye, Dr. Yair Paz, Dr. Michal Oren, and Dr. Einat Ramon, Schechter Institute, Jerusalem

Prof. David Golinkin, “The Conservative Approach to Jewish Law,” Conference of Teachers of the Joint Conversion Institute, Jerusalem

Dr. Shula Laderman, “Linking Creation and the Tabernacle: Visual Expression of Art in the Bible,” Conference on Art in the Bible and the Bible in Art, Haifa University

Prof. Renée Levine Melammed, “The Life Cycle of the Crypto-Jewish Women of Spain,” Ben Zvi Institute, Jerusalem

Dr. Paul Mandel: “Did the Period of the ‘Scribes’ of the Second Temple Period Determine a New Stage in the Development of Midrash? On Text, Hermeneutics and Historiography,” 22nd Inter-University Conference for the Study of Hebrew Literature, Hebrew University, Jerusalem

Dr. Bat-Sheva Stern, Conference Commemorating Ada Fishman’s Agricultural School for Girls, Bar Ilan University

Dr. Sara Strasbourg-Dayan, “Nature, Love and Work in A.D. Gordon’s Thought,” Beit HaTnach, Tel Aviv

April 2007

Prof. Renée Levine Melammed, “A Look at Salonika through the Poetry of bonusa Sarfatty,” National Authority for Ladino Culture Lecture, (Hebrew and Ladino lecture), Ashkelon


March 2007

Dr. Galia Glasner-Heled, “Total Remembrance vs. Dialogue Remembrance: Two Literary Experiences from the Books of Ka-Tzetnik,” Holocaust Remembrance Conference, Tel Aviv

Prof. Shmuel Glick, “Government in the Responsa Literature,” The Annual Rabbi David Aronson Memorial Symposium, Schechter Institute, Jerusalem

Prof. David Golinkin, “The Seven-Branched Menorah: Art, Archeology and Significance,” Torah Portion VaYakhel-Pekudei, Van Leer Institute’s Opening the Week Lecture Series, Jerusalem

Prof. Andre Hajdu, “The Liturgical Poem that is in the Melody,” From Andalusia to Babylon: Music and Emigration, Music and Community Lecture Series, Van Leer Institute, Jerusalem

Dr. Bat-Sheva Stern, Discussion on Stern’s new book, Redemption in Bondage: The Women Workers Movement in Mandatory Palestine 1920-1939, Symposium on Zionist Pioneer Women to Commemorate International Women’s Day, Mishkenot Sha’ananim, Jerusalem

February 2007


Dr. Alexander Even-Chen, “The Individual and the Collective,” and Prof. Eliezer Schweid, Chair, The Book of Rikvah: A Seminar in Memory of Prof. Rikvah Horowitz, z”l, Van Leer Institute, Jerusalem

Dr. Penina Gaipaz-Feller, “On Parent-Child Relations in the Bible,” Academic Administration of the Open University, Ra’anana and Ben Gurion University of the Negev, Bet Yatziv, Beersheva

Prof. Renée Levine Melammed, “Women’s World as Reflected in the Cairo Genizah Documents,” Ben Zvi Institute, Jerusalem


Dr. Batsheva-Sheva Stern, “Perception and Practice of Motherhood in Zionist Eretz Israel,” Bar Ilan University

January 2007

The Sixth International Conference: Jewish and Christian Perspectives was held in Israel and organized by Bar Ilan University, the Catholic Theological University in Utrecht, Holland (KTU) and the Schechter Institute, organized by Prof. David Golinkin and Dr. Yossi Turner. The following Schechter lecturers participated: Dr. Alexander Even-Chen, “Faith and the Courage to Be - Heschel and Tillich,” Dr. David Golinkin, “Muslim and Christian Influence on Jewish Law in the Middle Ages,” Dr. Tamar Kadari, “Rabbinic and Christian Models of Interaction on the Song of Songs,” Dr. Shula Laderman, “Illustrated Manuscripts as Pictorial Models of Interaction Between Judaism and Christianity,” Dr. Yossi Turner, “The Importance in Considering the Anomalies of Jewish Existence When Formulating Jewish Christian Relations”

Prof. Shmuel Glick, “Ideology in Responsa Relating to Education in the East and West in the 19th and 20th Centuries,” Conference on Education, Van Leer Institute

Scholarship for the Community 37
A Round Table Discussion Celebrating the publication of NASHIM #12, “Women’s Health, Reproduction and Body Politics,” with five panel members, Tmol-Shilshom Café, Jerusalem, organized by Prof. Renée Levine Melammed and Deborah Greniman.

Dr. Guy Miron, “The Jewish-German Response to Anti-Semitism, and “German Jewry - History and Memory,” part of a course: Europe, the Jewish World and Eretz Israel from the French Revolution to the Second World War, Ben Zvi Institute, Jerusalem

Silvia Silberman, conducted monthly seminar, Community Nets for Coping with Violence, with Arie Plat, for mental health professionals and consultants, co-sponsored by OFEK, January-June 2007


Rabbi Diana Villa, “What is Conservative Judaism?” for Jewish Agency-sponsored MASA seminar on Streams in Judaism, Jerusalem

December 2006

Conference on Contemporary Reform Judaism: Sociology, Education and Theology highlighted a number of Schechter affiliated academics including: Dr. Ari Ackerman, Prof. Hanan Alexander and Prof. Eliezer Schweid. Van Leer Institute, Jerusalem


November 2006

Rabbi Diana Villa, “Halakhic Solutions to the Agunah Problem,” Rabbi for Human Rights, Hillel, Hebrew University

September 2006


Publications

(published by the Schechter Institute or authored by Schechter Faculty)

Books

Book News The Schechter Institute hosted a booth at the International Book Fair in Jerusalem, February 2007  
A new bi-lingual book catalogue was printed in March 2007

Taking the Plunge: A Practical and Spiritual Guide to the Mikveh, Rabbi Miriam Berkowitz, Jerusalem: Schechter Institute, 2007

The Binding of Isaac: Mystical and Philosophical Interpretations of the Bible, Dr. Alexander Even-Chen, Tel Aviv: Yediot Ahronot, 2006 (Hebrew)

Sanctifying a Land: The Jewish Holy Places in the State of Israel 1948-1968, Dr. Doron Bar, Jerusalem: Ben-Zvi Institute and Ben Gurion Research Institute, 2007 (Hebrew with English summaries)

Kuntres Ha-Teshuvot He-hadash: A Bibliographic Thesaurus of Responsa Literature Published from ca. 1470-2000, Vol. 2, ed. Prof. Shmuel Glick, Jerusalem & Ramat-Gan: Schechter Institute, Bar Ilan University Law Faculty and the Schocken Institute, 2007 (Hebrew with English summaries)

Quntres b’Inyan Shabbat Hatunna: A Treatise Concerning the Shabbat Wedding, (based on an Unicum Discovered in the Schocken Institute Library of the Jewish Theological Seminary), Prof. Shmuel Glick, Jerusalem: Mosad Harav Kook, 2007 (Hebrew)

The JEDUT Online Database (JEDUT), Prof. Shmuel Glick, Director and General Editor, Jerusalem: Schocken Institute and Lifshitz Teacher’s College, 2007. An on-line database devoted to the history of Jewish Education from the Middle Ages to the beginning of the Twentieth century. Click on: www.jewish-education-sources


1. Participants of the World Conference of Jewish Communal Service attend a workshop at Schechter 2. Book launching of The Women Workers’ Movement in Eretz Yisrael 1920-1939, by Dr. Bat-Sheva Stern, Ben Zvi Institute, Jerusalem 3. Celebrating the publication of NASHIM #12 at Jerusalem’s Tmol-Shilshom Café. From left: Prof. Renée Levine Melammed, Deborah Greniman and Prof. Larissa Remenick, Bar Ilan University. 4. Dr. Alex Even-Chen (left) with writers Yochi Brandes and Prof. Haim Be’er, at Tel Aviv book launching of The Sacrifice of Isaac: Mystical and Philosophical Commentaries of the Bible 5. A Schechter booth at the International Book Fair in Jerusalem 6. Amitai Bronfman – Israeli high school young leaders learn about Conservative Judaism at Schechter 7. Diane Friedgut (left) recognizing Prof. Alice Shalvi and the contribution she has made to the success of the annual Women’s Study Days at Schechter and around Israel 8. Dr. Ya’akov Tsur moderates a discussion at the academic conference for the 40th anniversary of the reunification of Jerusalem held at Schechter 9. Rabbi Miriam Glazer, Los Angeles, teaching a class at the Women’s Study Day at Schechter 10. Dr. David Zohar (center), editor of Rabbi Hayyim Hirschenson’s Malki Bakodesh, with participants at the book launching at Schechter 11. Oranim Teacher’s Seminary participants in a training seminar on Conservative Judaism taught by Schechter faculty 12. Dr. Guy Miron, Dean, opens the International Franz Rosenzweig Conference held at Schechter

Megillat Hashoah, The Shoah Scroll, Special edition for Israeli Community Centers, ed. by Dr. Ya’acov Maoz, co-published by the Schechter Institute and National Association of Community Centers, 2007 (Hebrew)


A New Life: Religion, Motherhood and Supreme Love in the Works of A. D. Gordon, Dr. Einat Ramon, Tel Aviv: Carmel Publishers, 2007 (Hebrew)


“Socrates-Wheat field with Crows,” two plays, 2nd ed., Dr. Sara Strasbourg-Dayan, Tel Aviv: Dorgraf, 2006 (Spanish)

Redemption in Bondage: The Women Workers’ Movement in Mandatory Palestine 1920-1939, Dr. Bat Sheva Stern, Jerusalem: Schechter Institute and Ben Zvi Institute, 2006 (Hebrew)

Malki Bakodesh, Vol. 1, by Rabbi Hayyim Hirschenson, ed. Dr. David Zohar, Jerusalem and Ramat Gan: Schechter Institute, Hartman Institute and Bar Ilan University, 2006 (Hebrew)

The following books will appear in 2007-08:

Jewish Education for What? Studies in American Jewish and Israeli Education by Prof. Walter Ackerman z”l, editors: Prof. Hanan Alexander, Dr. Ari Ackerman and Dr. Brenda Bacon, Jerusalem: co-published by the Schechter Institute, Haifa University, Tel Aviv University, and Ben Gurion University, 2007

Legends of the Jews by Prof. Louis Ginzberg, a new edition of the Hebrew translation with an Index

Midrash Shmuel, a new critical edition, edited by Prof. Berachyahu Lifshitz

Articles


Prof. Shamma Friedman: “History and Agadah”: The Enigma of Dama Ben Netina” (Hebrew), Higayon L’Yona, In Honor of Professor Yona Fraenkel, ed. J. Levinson, J. Elbaum, G. Hasan-Rokem, Jerusalem, 2006  “If they have not Slain they are Slain; but if they have Slain they are not Slain” (Makkot 5b): Tradition or Transition?”, Sidra 20, 2005  Editor, Talmud Ha-Igud, BT Berakhot Chapter I, by Moshe Benovitz, The Society for the Interpretation of the Talmud, Jerusalem, 2007  Editor, Talmud Ha-Igud, BT


Dr. J. O. Mijlorg: “‘Through the Looking Glass’ at Sinai,” Conservative Judaism, 59, Fall 2006

Dr. Guy Miron: “Autobiography as a Source for the Study of German Jewry in Its Homeland and in Dispersion,” AJY Perspectives, Spring 2007


Dr. Einat Ramon: “Jewish Secularism as a Challenge for Modern Jewish Theologians: The Case of David Hartman’s Thought,” Journal of the Interdisciplinary Study of Monotheistic Religions, 3, 2007 (in English), Tel Aviv, March 2007

Dr. Yossi Turner: “Rabbi J.B. Soloveitchik’s Halakhic Mind as a Discussion in the Philosophy of Religion and its Implications for Non-Orthodox Jewish Thought,” in Investigations into Rabbi J.B. Soloveitchik’s Influence on Jewish Thought Education and Culture, ed. by Avinoam Rosenak, Jerusalem, Fall 2007


Partners in Development

- Vice President for Development: Eitan Cooper
- Director of Communications: Linda Price
- North American Representative: Avrum Lapin, EHL Consulting
Schechter Campus Groundbreaking Celebration-November 2006
2. Arleen Priest, Mission co-chair, opens the festivities.
3. Charles and Janet Nirenberg at the Chancellors Tribute Dinner with Ora Lipsky.
4. Dedee and Steve Lovell with student at TALI Ben Gurion School.
5. Schechter Campus Scroll, from left: signed by Ismar Schorsch, Arnold Eisen, Robert Rifkind, David Breakstone, Hanan Alexander, and David Golinkin.
7. Rabbi Marc Liebhaber and Martin Cohn check morning homework at TALI Ben Gurion school.
8. Rabbi Marc Liebhaber addressing special session honoring the 10th Anniversary of the Liebhaber Prize for Religious Tolerance.
10. Arleen Priest receives Chanukah present from TALI student.
12. Charles and Janet Nirenberg receive Chanukah presents from TALI students.
13. Paul Magy (right) and Bennett Magy (center) enjoy a moment with Prof. David Golinkin at Groundbreaking Opening Dinner.
15. Sounding the shofars at the Groundbreaking Ceremony.
16. Frances and Buddy Brandt at the Chancellors’ Tribute Dinner.
17. Rabbi Einat Ramon and Janet Tobin at the Chancellors’ Tribute Dinner.
18. Revealing the cornerstone of the new Schechter Campus, from left: Atara Ciechanover, Robert Rifkind and Prof. David Golinkin.
19. Ze’ev Bielsky, Chairman of the Jewish Agency and WZO Executive at the Groundbreaking Ceremony.
20. TALI counselors with welcome baskets at the Groundbreaking Ceremony.
23. TALI Bayit V’Gan Choir performs at the Groundbreaking ceremony.
24. Aaron Priest, Mission co-chair, welcomes mission members to the opening dinner.
25. From left: Minister of Education, Prof. Yuli Tamir, with Prof. Hanan Alexander and Robert Rifkind.
26. Prof. David Golinkin welcomes Minister of Education Yuli Tamir.
27. Alisa Doctoroff (right) with Beverly Lebeau at the Chancellors’ Tribute Dinner.
28. Fran and Buddy Brandt (right) show Rabbi Baruch Goldstein (center) and Yehuda Wagner, principal of TALI Neurim School, a TALI textbook published with their support.
Development and Communication

The 2006/07 fundraising year was, again, one of significant growth for the Schechter Institutes, Inc. EHL Consulting continues to provide full service in North America, and has enabled us to build our fundraising capacity while assuring a minimum of overhead – ensuring that a maximum of every dollar we raise is used directly to further our mission.

Between July 2006 and June 2007, The Schechter Institutes, Inc. raised $4.8 million over and above capital gifts for its numerous programs and activities in Jerusalem and across Israel and Eastern Europe. This is a 16% increase from the previous year. We are, with the generous support of individuals, foundations and federations, expanding our programs and strengthening pluralistic Jewish education in Israel and around the world.

Schechter Institutes, Inc. was awarded a substantial multi-year grant by the Legacy Heritage Fund Limited to enable the building of a center for pluralistic Jewish education in the historic Neve Zedek neighborhood of Tel Aviv. The completion of the new classroom building at the Schechter Institute Campus in Jerusalem, the establishment of an innovative Fellowship Program for the training of Israeli Masorti rabbis, and the building of a center for pluralistic Jewish education in the historic Neve Zedek neighborhood of Tel Aviv, has allowed Schechter to build needed facilities and expand its Jewish educational programs all over Israel.

Capital Campaign

Jerusalem Campus - The Schechter Institutes, Inc. has raised $7.3 million towards the $11 million goal for Phase I of Schechter’s new campus.

Rabbi Marc and Dr. Henia Liebhaber have pledged a lead gift of $2 million for the “The Center for Jewish Education.” This tangible commitment to the values of Jewish learning and tzedakah shown by the Liebhaber Family is held in highest esteem and gratitude by the Schechter Institute.

Tel Aviv-Neve Zedek Center - The Schechter Institutes, Inc. received a lead gift as well as several other major commitments for the Schechter Institute Neve Zedek Center in Tel Aviv, raising almost $2 million towards the overall goal of $3.2 million.

New Capital Campaign Commitments

Anonymous

Nira and Ken Abramowitz

Diana and Manolo Berezdivin

Gary Berman

Hubert and Frances Brandt

Hannah S. and Samuel A. Cohn Memorial Foundation

Estate of Theresa Levinson z”l

Charles Morris Charitable Trust, Pittsburgh

Members of Temple Beth Am, Los Angeles

Max and Beatrice Wolfe Charitable Foundation, Toronto

New Major Gifts/Commitments ($10,000 and over)

Schechter Institute Graduate School

Vicki Berman, M.A. scholarships for teachers from development towns and poor neighborhoods

Caesarea Fund, M.A. scholarships for teachers from development towns and poor neighborhoods

Stephen and Dedee Lovell, General support

Schechter Rabbinical Seminary

UIA of Canada, Scholarships for two rabbinical students

David Nimmer, General support

Julius and Ray Charlestein Foundation, General support

TALI Education Fund

Susan and Scott Shay have made a major contribution to TALI in 2007. In grateful acknowledgement, the TALI Education Fund has established the ‘Susan and Scott Shay TALI Director General’ position, held currently by Rabbi Dr. Eitan Chikli. We salute the Shays’ strong commitment and innovative leadership in the area of Jewish education, both in Israel and the Diaspora.

UJA-Federation of Greater New York, TALI parental empowerment program

Detroit-Central Galilee Partnership Region, New TALI schools

Toddy and Irving Granovsky, TALI Eilat via UJA Federation of Greater Toronto

Jonathan Lopatin, TALI school, Zichron Ya’akov

Jewish Community Foundation of Los Angeles, TALI teacher training

Harold Wolfe, TALI Eilat, via UJA Federation of Greater Toronto

Ziering Family Foundation, TALI teacher training

Midreshet Yerushalayim

Yale Asbell, Ramah-Ukraine Family Camp

Jewish Agency for Israel, Winter Camp in Ukraine

Scott Primack, Camp Ramah-Ukraine

Rabbi Toni Shy, Midreshet Yerushalayim: Israel activities

Diane Wohl, Camp Ramah-Ukraine

The Schechter Institutes, Inc. Highlights of Activities

Schechter Breaks Ground on $22 Million Campus

The Groundbreaking Ceremony for the New Schechter Campus – a major Jerusalem event – took place on November 28th, 2006, in the presence of Education Minister Prof. Yuli Tamir, Ze’ev Bielsky World Zionist Organization and Jewish Agency Executive Chair and a leadership delegation, chaired by Arleen and Aaron Priest that included Board Chairman, Mr. Robert Rifkind, JTS Chancellor Emeritus Prof. Ismar Schortz and Chancellor Elect Prof. Arnold Eisen. Joining the festivities was a large Masorti Leadership Mission and hundreds of Schechter students, teachers, staff and alumni.

The Groundbreaking Ceremony took place during the annual meetings of the Boards of Governors of the Schechter Institute Graduate School and Schechter Rabbinical Seminary, convened in Jerusalem November 27th-30th, 2006. The festive program also
New Board Members

Prof. Arnold Eisen, newly elected Chancellor of the Jewish Theological Seminary, joined the Boards of Governors of the Schechter Rabbinical Seminary and Schechter Graduate School in 2007. Prof. Eisen chaired Stanford University’s Religious Studies Department and was Professor of Jewish Culture and Religion before assuming his new position at JTS.


Schechter Institute of Jewish Studies Board of Governors and Executive Committee: Daniel Birnbaum, CEO of Soda Club International, Israel; Board of Governors: Hubert Brandt (see above)

Schechter Rabbinical Seminary Board of Governors: Prof. David Nimmer, Los Angeles, counsel to Irell & Manella LLP, Los Angeles

TALI Education Fund Executive Committee and Board of Governors: Dr. Moti Shalem, Israel, outgoing Director, International School for Holocaust Studies, Yad Vashem, Jerusalem

Schechter Faculty Lectures in North America and Europe


Dr. Harvey Meirovich, Scholar-in-Residence, Beth Tzedec, Toronto, February 2007


Dr. Einat Ramon, Five lectures on Zionism, Feminism and Conservative Judaism, Limmud Conference, Nottingham, England; Scholar-in-Residence New London Synagogue, Shavuot 2007


Schechter Faculty Fellowships in North America and Europe

Prof. Moshe Benovitz was a Harry Starr Fellow at Harvard University for the spring semester of 2007, where he conducted research on the rituals of Sukkot and Hanukkah during Second Temple times and in Rabbinic Literature.

Prof. Shmuel Glick was selected to be a sponsored researcher at Cambridge University England at the Taylor-Schechter Geniza Unit. He will be preparing a catalog of Responsa from the Geniza, Middle Ages to the 19th Century, August-February 2007-08.

Prof. David Golinkin, Schechter President Warmly Received in North America

Prof. David Golinkin addressed major Conservative convocations and served as a scholar-in-residence at a number of North American Jewish communities in 2006-07, including the Rabbinical Assembly Convention, Boston; Congregation Bnai Jacob, Woodbridge, CT; Beth Hamiryan, Toronto; Beth Shalom, Columbia, MD; Aidas Israel, Washington, DC; Morristown Jewish Center, Morristown, NJ; Jewish Community Center, San Juan, Puerto Rico; Beth Israel, Owings Mills, MD; Hebrew Educational Alliance, Denver, CO; Ahavas Chesed, Mobile, AL.

Prof. Alice Shalvi Bestowed Israel’s Highest Award

Prof. Alice Shalvi, (Schechter Graduate School and Rabbinical Seminary Boards) was awarded the Israel Prize for Lifetime Achievement and Special Contribution to Society and the State of Israel in an award ceremony in Jerusalem on Independence Day, May 2007. Over the last decade, Prof. Shalvi was instrumental in establishing Schechter’s Center for Women in Jewish Law, the Schechter Institute Executive Committee (2000-2004) and today serves as a scholar-in-residence at a number of North American Jewish communities including the Rabbinical Assembly

Schechter Board Meetings

The Schechter Institutes, Inc., under the chairmanship of Robert Rifkind, held its Board of Directors meetings in New York in September 2006 and February 2007. In addition to the November meetings, the Schechter Graduate School and Rabbinical Seminary conducted board meetings in Jerusalem and New York by video conference in June 2007. The Executive Committees of the Graduate School, Rabbinical Seminary, TALI Education Fund and Midreshet Yerushalayim met on a regular basis and were chaired respectively by Ya’akov Tsur, Prof. Hanan Alexander, Prof. Haim Be’er and Rabbi Yossie Goldman.

The Schechter Institutes, Inc., Board of Governors met in Jerusalem and New York by video conference in June 2007. The Executive Committees of the Graduate School, Rabbinical Seminary, TALI Education Fund and Midreshet Yerushalayim met on a regular basis and were chaired respectively by Ya’akov Tsur, Prof. Hanan Alexander, Prof. Haim Be’er and Rabbi Yossie Goldman.

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Communications

The Communications and Development Department supports the fundraising efforts of The Schechter Institutes, Inc. through the production of promotional materials, the ongoing cultivation of media contacts both in North America and Israel, the encouragement of mission visits to Schechter, and the strengthening of communication avenues between Schechter and its growing donor base.

Publicity and Media

Over 150 articles, interviews and news briefs on Schechter programs and personalities appeared in Israeli and overseas media in 2006-07. Schechter Making News and TALI Making News, two booklets of articles highlighting media coverage of the Groundbreaking Ceremony and other academic news from Israel, as well as the TALI 30th anniversary celebrations, were produced in 2007 and distributed to donors and leadership worldwide.

1 From left: Rabbinical student, Michal Schwartz, Toddy Granovsky, Rabbi Einat Ramon and Eitan Cooper  2 David Golinkin, Jerome and Miriam Katzin Professor of Jewish Studies  3 Board Member MK Colette Avital, opens Groundbreaking Celebration at the Israel Museum  4 Prof. David Golinkin with Rabbi Ronald and Robin Shulman, Chizuk Amuno Congregation, Baltimore, MD  5 B'nai Torah Congregation Mission, Boca Raton, FL, visits TALI Nauim School, Kiyat Bialik  6 Beth El Temple Mission, West Hartford, CT, led by Rabbi Jim Rosen  7 Rabbi Marc Liebhaber and Prof. Alice Shalvi celebrate the 10th anniversary of the Liebhaber Prize with a reunion of past prize recipients at the King David Hotel  8 Sandy Starkman (right) Highland Park, IL, with Linda Price, Director of Communications  9 Vicki Berman (right), Rockville, MD and Prof. David Golinkin learn about the TALI Givat Zeav school from its principal, Miriam Peretz  10 Prof. Alice Shalvi receives the Israel Prize, Independence Day 2007  11 Paul Issacs, PEF board member with Prof. David Golinkin  12 JTS National Leadership Mission  13 Rabbi Dr. Eitan Chikli, Susan and Scott Shay TALI Director General  14 William Davidson and Schechter rabbinical students near the Western Wall for morning prayers  15 Saul and Mary Sanders (left) visit with Prof. David Golinkin (far right) and JTS rabbinical students at Schechter  16 Donald and Lorraine Skupsky, Denver, CO, meet with Prof. David Golinkin  17 From left: Irwin and Janet Tabin, Prof. David Golinkin, Sylvia Lubliner, Rabbi Benjamin Kreitman and Rabbi Jill Kreitman  18 Sophie Cardin, aged 7, daughter of Carol and Steven Cardin, of Denver, CO, and granddaughter of Shoshana Cardin, Baltimore, MD, contributes to Schechter after hearing Prof. Golinkin speak in Denver  19 Prof. David Golinkin gives Schechter’s latest publication to Rabbi Scott White, Ohev Sholom Congregation, Kansas City  20 Dutch Jewish Humanitarian Fund, right to left: Gidi Peiper, Muriel Leeuwijn, Eitan Cooper and Rob Wurms  21 Cochair UJA Federation of NY, Jewish Renewal Committee receives TALI update  22 From left: Jacobo and Raquel Bender, Diana and Manolo Berezdivin with Prof. David Golinkin  23 Dr. Peter and Gabi Gottlieb, Denver, CO
Dear David,

Regarding your latest Responsa in a Moment on Mee Sheberakh for a Non-j ew: Vintage Golinkin! Learned, well-organized and authentic. Many thanks for continuing to be as productive and as generous with your learning as you are!

Rabbi Brad Artson
Dean, Ziegler Rabbinical School
American Jewish University, Los Angeles

The President’s Corner: Prof. David Golinkin in the Media


Website and Electronic Mailings
Schechter is on the web with The Schechter Institutes, Inc. English website, WWW.SCHECHTER.ORG.IL, which features Insight Israel, a monthly column written by Prof. David Golinkin; Faculty Forum, a monthly column presenting original research by Schechter faculty; Ask the Rabbi, a service staffed by Rabbis Diana Villa and Monique Susskind Goldberg who have written over 400 responsa to date, and the Schechter Bookstore website, WWW.SCHECHTER.EDU, which features a resource for pluralism projects in Israel.

Iyunei Shabbat online with YNET
One of Israel’s leading website news services, YNET of Yediot Ahronot, is publishing Schechter’s Torah Portion, Iyunei Shabbat, on their English website. Iyunei Shabbat is co-published by the Masorti Movement, Rabbinical Assembly and Masorti Olami, and appears in Hebrew, English and Spanish.

Responsa in a Moment in Hungarian and Spanish
The Jewish University in Budapest, academically affiliated with the Schechter Institute, has translated electronic articles by Prof. David Golinkin from his Responsa in a Moment monthly column, placing them in Hungarian on their official university website. Ria Orkret, from the Uruguay Jewish Community, translates articles from Responsa in a Moment into Spanish, sharing them with the Spanish-speaking world through her congregation website.

Sharing Jewish Knowledge with Missions and Individual Visits

## Budget 2007 (in US$)

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*Includes North American operations.*
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Dr. Doron Bar, Land of Israel Studies
Prof. Moshe Benovitz, Talmud, Jewish Law
Dr. Alexander Even-Chen, Jewish Thought
Dr. Phina Feller, Bible
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