The Schechter Institute is born in Jerusalem, in makeshift quarters, with four Schechter Rabbinical Seminary students and a handful of dedicated faculty members. Their goal is to train Conservative spiritual leaders for Israel with a Judaism that is halakhic, Zionist and pluralistic.

First ordination ceremony of the Schechter Rabbinical Seminary. Since that time, 75 Conservative rabbis have been ordained and are working as educators and pulpit rabbis throughout Israel and the world.

Schechter Institute of Jewish Studies M.A. program established as a branch of the Jewish Theological Seminary. Its goal is to provide Israeli educators with a serious program of applied Jewish studies for their classrooms.

Midreshet Yerushalayim, the Jewish Studies program for Russian-speaking Jews in Israel and the former Soviet Union is established at Schechter.

First annual Kekst Fellowship awarded. Eleven distinguished Schechter faculty members have been honored with the prize since its creation.

Camp Ramah-Ukraine opens its doors to the children of Midreshet Yerushalayim. The popular camp combines Jewish learning with the best Ramah camping traditions.

M.A. Track in Informal Education established.

The first Conservative woman rabbi in Israel, Valerie Stessin, receives ordination from the Schechter Rabbinical Seminary.

M.A. track in Family and Community Studies established in conjunction with Israel’s Community Center Association.

First graduation Ceremony of the Schechter M.A. program held. Since then, Schechter has awarded almost 1000 degrees, mainly to Jewish educators.

Jewish Women’s Studies M.A. Track - the first of its kind in Israel - established.

Institute of Applied Halakhah established in order to publish a library of Halakhic literature in Hebrew, English and Russian for Jewish communities around the world.

First Liebhaber Prize for the Promotion of Religious Tolerance and Cultural Pluralism awarded in Israel. Since then, 13 outstanding Israelis engaged in pluralistic endeavors have been honored.

NASHIM, the first academic journal of Jewish Women’s Studies and Gender Issues is published by the Schechter Institute, Brandeis University and Indiana University Press. 17 issues have appeared to date.

TALI Early Childhood Education Division founded. Today, 100 TALI pre-schools introduce the beauty of Judaism to Israel’s youngest citizens.
Looking into the Future: Schechter Celebrates Dedications of the Legacy Classroom Building of the New Schechter Campus in Jerusalem and the Schechter Center for Jewish Culture in Neve Zedek - Legacy Heritage Building.

1. TALI Education Fund publishes its first textbooks for children and sourcebooks for teachers, which today number 32.

2. TALI Educational Leadership Program established for principals and lead staff. The two-year program has graduated 140 educators, with the majority continuing on for an M.A. in Jewish Studies at the Schechter Institute.

3. MILI (Midreshet Yerushalayim Creative Study) competitions established for young Russian-speakers with the emphasis on Jewish knowledge questions.

4. Revson Foundation establishes the Judge Simon Rifkind and Harry Meresman Student Fellowships for Excellence in the Graduate School.

5. First Genger Prize for Outstanding TALI Principal awarded. Since then, the award has been expanded to include Outstanding TALI School and Kindergarten Teacher.

6. Center for Judaism and the Arts established to teach Jewish Studies via art.

7. M.A. in Judaism and the Arts established.

8. William Davidson Scholarships for M.A. students established. Close to 1000 scholarships have been awarded to date.

9. Israel Prize laureate, Ada Karmi-Melamede chosen to design the new Schechter campus in Jerusalem.

10. TALI Rabbi program established. Today, a dedicated group of rabbis and Jewish music specialists provide spiritual direction in the TALI schools.

11. Camp-Ramah Ukraine holds its first annual Family Camp for parents and children to encourage Jewish family life throughout the year.

12. Alice Shalvi Scholarships for Excellence in Women’s and Gender Studies and Judaism and the Arts established.

13. Schecchter receives official recognition as an Israeli academic institution by Israel’s Council for Higher Education.

14. The Jerome and Miriam Katzin Presidential Chair in Jewish Studies established.

15. Schecchter Rabbinical Seminary initiates a two-year course in CPE - the first accredited chaplaincy program in Israel, in partnership with the National Association of Jewish Chaplains and the Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital in New Jersey.


17. Groundbreaking ceremony for the new Schechter Campus is held in Jerusalem.


19. TALI embarks on Dialogue and Identity Project with TALI and Arab schools in the Galilee.

20. The Susan and Scott Shay TALI Director General position is established at the TALI Education Fund.


22. The Schechter Center for Jewish Culture in Neve Zedek restoration project is adopted by Schechter, made possible by the Legacy Heritage Fund Limited.

23. The first Learning Communities are established by Legacy Heritage Rabbinic Fellows.

24. Hebrew and Jewish Literature becomes the fifteenth track within Schechter’s interdisciplinary M.A. program.

25. Schecchter receives permanent and final recognition as an Israeli academic institution from the Council for Higher Education in Israel.
Jerusalem. 1984. The Schechter Institute is born, in makeshift quarters, with four rabbinical students and a handful of dedicated faculty members.

Resources are limited, but the visionary plan is ambitious: to take a generation of Israelis distanced from their Jewish culture and heritage and offer them a Judaism that is relevant to their lives, framed in terms they can relate to.

Over the past 25 years, tens of thousands of Israelis as well as Jews from North and South America and Eastern Europe have crossed over the Schechter Bridge – to a deeper sense of Jewish self; to richer fields of Jewish knowledge.
We have much to be proud of.

The Schechter Institute of Jewish Studies has graduated 1000 Jewish educators; the Schechter Rabbinical Seminary has ordained more than 75 rabbis for Masorti leadership positions; the TALI Education Fund has established more than 190 schools and pre-schools throughout Israel; Midreshet Yerushalayim has strengthened the Jewish identity of thousands of Russian-speakers in Israel and the former Soviet Union.

But our work has just begun.

In Fall 2010, both the New Schechter Campus in Jerusalem and the Schechter Center for Jewish Culture in Neve Zedek will open. This impressive growth reflects a new reality: Growing numbers of Israelis are searching for meaningful ways to express their Judaism. Schechter will be there for them to provide the bridge.
The Schechter Institutes, Inc. is a not for profit (501-c-3) organization dedicated to the advancement of pluralistic Jewish education. The Schechter Institutes, Inc. provides support to four non-profit organizations based in Jerusalem, Israel:

Schechter Institute of Jewish Studies
A Graduate School offering innovative, interdisciplinary M.A. programs to Israeli educators of all backgrounds and beliefs.

Schechter Rabbinical Seminary
A Rabbinical School for the training of educational and community leaders for Israel and abroad.

TALI Education Fund
A nationwide Jewish education program providing enriched pluralistic Jewish Studies in 191 public schools and kindergartens throughout Israel.

Midreshet Yerushalayim
An educational program offering study opportunities in Jewish culture to Israelis and immigrants from the former Soviet Union in Israel and in communities throughout Eastern Europe.

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Dear Friends of Schechter,

As the Schechter Institute celebrates its 25th anniversary as a bridge between Israelis and Judaism, a number of recent events highlight the crucial importance of our work throughout the State of Israel.

On the one hand, a recent Rafi Smith survey for the World Union of Jewish Studies found that four-fifths of secular Israelis and more than half of Israelis overall define their knowledge of Jewish practice and Jewish heritage as mediocre or lower. In contrast, the level of Judaic knowledge among Haredim (ultra-Orthodox Jews) is increasing. The survey touches upon the increasing polarity in Israeli society which it calls “the State of Tel Aviv and the State of Jerusalem.”

This was brought home throughout the summer of 2009 when every Shabbat witnessed violent protests by Haredim in Jerusalem against the opening of a municipal parking lot a few kilometers from their homes.

The good news is that the survey referred to above states that 43% of all secular Israelis want to increase their knowledge of Judaism and Jewish sources, with many citing such options as secular Batey Midrash or Jewish academic institutions.

The Schechter Institute has played and will continue to play a crucial role in bridging this dual gap - the gap between Israelis and Judaism and the gap between different groups of Jews in the State of Israel:

- Schechter Rabbinical Seminary graduates and students are “out in the trenches” teaching Judaism in Masorti synagogues, TALI schools, Legacy Heritage Batey Midrash and as Chaplains in Israeli hospitals.
- Over 1500 Schechter Institute M.A. students and graduates are out in the field teaching Jewish studies to some 50,000 Israeli children in classrooms from Kirty Shmoneh to Eilat.
- 35,000 TALI school children are studying pluralistic Jewish studies in 191 TALI schools and pre-schools all over the country. Indeed, TALI now reaches 10% of the children in the secular elementary school system.
- Thousands of Russian immigrants have studied in Midreshet Yerushalayim outreach centers or MILI young adult clubs and they are now being joined by Hebrew-speakers at Batey Midrash in Tel Aviv, Karmiel and Haifa.

In 25 years, the Schechter Institute has become the largest provider of pluralistic Jewish education in Israel or, to put it differently, the largest bridge between Israelis and Judaism. As we dedicate our new Classroom Building in Jerusalem and the new Schechter Center for Jewish Culture in Tel Aviv, we rededicate ourselves to bridging the gaps between Israelis and Judaism and between one Jew and another.

David Golinkin
Professor David Golinkin, President
Jerome and Miriam Katzin Professor of Jewish Studies, Schechter Institute of Jewish Studies, Jerusalem

Robert S. Rifkind
Chairman of the Board
The Schechter Institutes, Inc.
Schechter Jerusalem Campus

Schechter celebrates its 25th anniversary in 2009-2010. In just 25 years, Schechter has evolved into a major Israeli academic institution and Israel's leader in the field of pluralistic Jewish education through the Schecher Institute of Jewish Studies Graduate School, the Schechter Rabbinical Seminary, the TALI Education Fund and Midreshet Yerushalayim.

All this activity emanates from one building in Jerusalem which was constructed fifty years ago to serve as a student dormitory. Inadequate classroom and library space as well as an antiquated building infrastructure represent a major obstacle to Schechter growth.

The Solution: A New Schechter Jerusalem Campus designed by Israel Prize Laureate Ada Karmi-Melamede. The $25 million project, located in the heart of Jerusalem, near the Knesset and Israel Museum, will enhance the physical beauty of Jerusalem. The Campus will include the Legacy Heritage Fund Limited Classroom Building, the Liebhaber Center for Jewish Education and finally, in the last stage, the Schechter Library-Synagogue Building.

Building Update

Building is progressing on schedule for the five-story 25,000 sq. ft Legacy Heritage Fund Limited Classroom Building. The ground floor of the classroom building will house the spacious Harvey L. Miller Family Bet Midrash (Study Hall), a student lounge and art gallery for permanent and visiting exhibits. Three additional floors will hold ten classrooms, four seminar rooms and a faculty lounge. The basement will house the TALI Pedagogic Center.

FOCUS ON: Schechter Dedication Celebration will take place May 3-6, 2010 with the dedication of the Legacy Heritage Fund Limited Classroom Building in Jerusalem and in Tel Aviv, the Schechter Center for Jewish Culture in Neve Zedek - Legacy Heritage Building.

Join Schechter leadership, students, graduates, faculty members and friends for an historic event marking Schechter’s ongoing contribution to Israeli society.
Schechter Tel Aviv Campus

Over the past few years, there are growing signs of a Jewish cultural renaissance in Tel Aviv, Israel’s first Hebrew city, which just turned 100. This new reality presents a golden opportunity for Schechter to have a profound impact on the Jewish spiritual and cultural life of Tel Aviv in the rapidly developing neighborhood of Neve Zedek.

The Schechter Center for Jewish Culture in Neve Zedek will offer modern and expanded premises to Kehillat Sinai and Midreshet Iyun. Both are veteran Tel Aviv centers of pluralistic learning and worship which have operated for the last 18 years under the able direction of Schechter graduate Rabbi Roberto Arbib.

Restoration Project

The design and restoration project of a 19th century Templar building and courtyard has been given to award winning Tel Aviv architect, Michal Kimmel. Plans call for the building’s exterior of intricate stonework and latticework to be restored. Internally, the building will be completely renovated, providing 9,000 sq. ft. to conduct educational and community outreach.

The $3 million two-story complex will include a synagogue, Bet Midrash, which will also be used for public lectures and concerts, an art workshop, a music studio-classroom, office space and kitchen facilities. The 5,000 sq. ft. courtyard will be restored with a coffee house which will draw residents and tourists to the Center and its activities.

Jerusalem: 1. Legacy Heritage Fund Limited Classroom building (left) and Lebhaber Jewish Education Center (right) 2. Library 3. Ada Karmi (center) on building site with Director General Liat Citron (left) and project manager 4. Interior of future Harvey L. Miller Family Bet Midrash 5. Entrance Foyer with Library on left Tel Aviv: 6. Rabbi Roberto Arbib as construction begins on Schechter Center for Jewish Culture in Neve Zedek 7. Façade of Center (left) and TALI kindergarten 8. Courtyard and Coffeehouse 9. Construction began on July 1, 2009

On the adjoining lot, a $1.5 million TALI Early Childhood Center will be built, housing two pre-schools, plus two additional activity rooms.

The Legacy Heritage Fund Limited Classroom Building of the new Schechter Jerusalem Campus and The Schechter Center for Jewish Culture in Neve Zedek-Legacy Heritage Building will open in Fall 2010.
Academic News

FOCUS ON: Accreditation
Schechter received final recognition as an Israeli academic institution from the Council for Higher Education in Israel. This recognition facilitates the further growth of our Institution.

Growth: Schechter runs the largest M.A. program in Jewish Studies in Israel with 553 students, coming from over 150 cities and towns throughout Israel.

Growth: Number of students registered for 2009-10 academic year is 25% higher than the figure recorded at the same time last year.

New Track: Hebrew and Jewish Literature, the 15th M.A. track at Schechter, will be offered to students in 2009-10.


Alumni: Alumni newsletter published twice a year; 1st Alumni Conference held at Schechter in December 2008 with lectures on Tu B’shvat and ecology, 60 graduates in attendance; alumni instrumental in establishing Legacy Learning Communities (see profiles p.9 and p.23).

Strategic Partnerships: Schechter is pursuing ties with Yaakov Herzog Center, Ministry of Tourism Tour Guide Department and other government offices for student recruitment.

FOCUS ON: Handmade Midrash in the Artist’s Home staged an impressive art exhibit at Schechter in January 2009. Twelve students, together with their mentor and teacher, Dr. Jo Milgrom, created works that visually depicted their personal dialogue with Biblical sources.

Faculty News

Kekst Faculty Fellowship
Dr. Shula Laderman concluded her two-year tenure as Kekst Fellow, which allowed her to prepare God’s Blueprint of Creation for publication with E.J. Brill, Leiden. The new Kekst Fellow for 2009-11 will be Prof. Guy Miron, Associate Prof. of Modern Jewish History at Schechter.

Batsheva Margalit-Stern, Senior Lecturer in Land of Israel Studies and Women’s Studies, won Haifa University’s highly coveted Hecht Prize in 2009 for her book Redemption in Bondage: The Women Workers’ Movement in Eretz Israel, 1920-1939, co-published by the Schechter Institute and Yad Ben Tzvi.

Prof. David Golinkin was asked to serve on the Academic Council of the World Union of Jewish Studies.

Prof. Renée Levine Melammed was appointed Dean of the Graduate School.

Prof. Alice Shalvi received an Honorary Fellowship from the Open University.

Dr. Pinchas Mandel and Dr. Tamar Kadari, both lecturers in Midrash at Schechter, received prestigious Israel Science Foundation (four-year) grants for their research on Eichah Rabbah and Shir Hashirim Rabbah, which will be published by Schechter’s Midrash Project.

Dr. Brenda Bacon and Dr. Ari Ackerman were elected members of the executive committee of the Israeli Association for Research in Jewish Education.

Prof. Yossi Turner was promoted from Senior Lecturer to Associate Professor.

Dr. Yair Paz was promoted from Lecturer to Senior Lecturer in Land of Israel Studies.

Dr. Doron Bar was appointed Advisor to the Land of Israel Studies Track.

Dr. Paul Shrell Fox was appointed Advisor to the Jewish Women’s Studies Track.

Numbers 2008-09

553 students
71 faculty members
14 interdisciplinary M.A. tracks in Jewish Studies
74 graduates in 2008 for a total of 914 graduates since 1988
15 books published by Schechter or Schechter faculty
12 academic conferences sponsored or co-sponsored
FOCUS ON: The Marc and Henia Liebhaber Prize for Religious Tolerance in Israel was awarded to veteran Jewish educator, Muki Tsur, at a ceremony held in Jerusalem on December 4, 2008. Muki Tsur is an educator, writer and historian whose work has been directed at bridging the fault-lines of religious polarization threatening Israeli society. The next prize in 2009 will be shared by singer Shlomo Gronich and radio personality Jackie Levy who bring Israelis together through song and comedy.

Scholarship News

The Judge Simon Rifkind and Harry Meresman Scholarships for Academic Excellence were awarded to ten deserving graduates at the Schechter Commencement Exercises in December 2008.

Prof. Alice Shalvi Scholarships for Outstanding Students in Gender Studies and Judaism and the Arts were awarded to three top students in the field, also at the graduation ceremony.

The Sidney Frank Foundation Scholarships in Women’s and Gender Studies were awarded to two exceptional students in the field.

The Grinspoon Scholarships for M.A. Students in the TALI Leadership Program were conferred on 10 TALI teachers and principals of outstanding merit.

Scholarships for Students from Development Towns and Underprivileged Neighborhoods allowed 56 students to study at Schechter in 2008-09. Among these students are six from the Ethiopian community and two first-year Russian-speaking students who joined the M.A. program through Midreshet Yerushalayim.

We Remember

William (Bill) Davidson z”l (1922-2009), a passionate believer in Jewish Education in Israel and the Diaspora, who created a scholarship fund for first-year graduate students in 2002 which enabled close to 1000 Davidson Scholarship recipients to earn degrees in Jewish studies at the Schechter Institute. He will be sorely missed by the entire Schechter community.

Research Institutes

The Institute of Applied Halakhah continues to publish a library of Halakhic literature in Hebrew, English, and Russian for Jews throughout the world. It has published 24 volumes of scholarly research.

The Center for Judaism and the Arts was established in 2001 for the enrichment of educational and cultural life in Israel and includes the M.A. track in Judaism and the Arts and TALI’s Visual Midrash Electronic Archive which will go online in September 2009.

The Center for Women in Jewish Law was established in 1999 in order to enable women rabbis to research, publish and educate the public on the rights of women from the perspective of Jewish Law. Its publications include Jewish Law Watch; Za’akat Dalot (The Cry of the Wretched); Halakhic Solutions for the Agunot of our Time; To Learn and To Teach; and Ask the Rabbi, a collection of responsa culled from the Ask the Rabbi website.
Graduate School Bridge-Builders

The Builder
Benjamin Cohen, 44, Director, Sderot Cinematheque, Schechter Class of ‘08. The Cohen’s first sabra, Benny comes from a family of nine siblings that immigrated from Morocco in 1962. His three children were all born in Sderot, making them the third generation of Cohens to live in Sderot.

The Blueprint
“Schechter showed me the ‘aesthetic’ in Judaism. Our sages depicted both an inner and outer splendor in mankind. Exposing this beauty guides me in all programming that emanates from the Cinematheque.”

The Bridge
At the helm of the Sderot Cinematheque since 2005, Benny Cohen sees his job as a mission, especially in a place like Sderot, a development town in Israel’s western Negev that has been the target of missile fire from Gaza for the past eight years. “Throughout this entire war of attrition, we never once closed our doors. One of our two movie halls serves also as a bomb shelter. We screened movies from morning ‘til night, providing ‘shelter’ both literally and figuratively for the residents of Sderot.”

Graduating from Schechter in 2008 with a specialization in Judaism and the Arts, Cohen has taken the power of the cinema and transformed it into a tool for community education and social action. “We are a bridge for the diverse populations of Sderot and the outlying areas: religious, secular, city folk, kibbutznik and moshavnik, the economically weak and strong.” Cohen, who grew up in a religious home, is intrigued with the notion of Jewish culture and its place in Israeli society. He has built a number of innovative programs that mesh the study of Jewish texts with film. “The ‘silver screen’ is the great equalizer, allowing us to break down stereotypes and create avenues of dialogue.”

The Builder
Aharale Rotstein, 59, Principal, Shaar HaNegev High School, adjoins the town of Sderot, in Israel’s western Negev; grew up in Tel Aviv, but settled on Kibbutz Mefalsim, where he lives today; Class of ‘94 – Schechter Institute’s first graduating class.

The Blueprint
“Israel’s major crisis is not between the political ‘left’ and ‘right,’ but rather of identity. We can no longer afford to cop out - using Orthodoxy as our proxy. Every year, I see myself turning more and more to my Jewish roots for answers. This philosophy guides the spirit of my school as well.”

The Bridge
Aharale Rotstein joined the Schechter M.A. program at its inception in 1990. Together with four other students, all of them teachers, they learned at Schechter. He studied one day a week in Jerusalem and the rest of the week worked in the kibbutz dairy barn. “Once I got to Schechter, I knew that I wanted a life in education,” remembers Aharale. The same year that he received his M.A. he became principal of the Shaar HaNegev secular public high school.

Fifteen years later, Aharale is in full command at the school which today serves more than 1000 students. “I have succeeded in my role as educator if by the end of their high school studies, my students have learned to ask themselves ‘who am I?’ and ‘why am I here?’” His educational approach was always firmly grounded in the values of Zionism and universalism, but with the passing of time, Aharale feels ever more strongly about the role Judaism must play in his students’ lives.
The Builder
Dr. Mirik Gerzi, 61, teacher of Judaism, Oholo College, near the Sea of Galilee; has lived her whole life in the Jezreel Valley’s Kibbutz Bet Hashita where her parents were founding members. She graduated with the first Schechter M.A. class in 1994 and returned to Schechter between 1996 and 2003 to complete a DHL on “Human Beauty in Rabbinic Literature.”

The Blueprint
“The sacred books are an essential part of Jewish culture and my roots. But I believe that the Torah was written by Man, not God. I think it is important for a Jew to be familiar with his literary and cultural heritage in the same way that an Englishman connects to Shakespeare.”

The Bridge
Mirik Gerzi has been involved in Jewish education for over twenty years, first as a Jewish studies teacher in the kibbutz high school and most recently as a college lecturer. She notes a change in the attitude of young Israelis toward Judaism. “Young people today are more open and eager to learn about the Jewish sources and heritage. Their parents and especially their grandparents were more concerned with building the ‘new Jew’ which rejected traditional Jewish life.

Mirik has established a Bet Midrash learning community on kibbutz. “The kibbutz move toward privatization powered a new need to search for Jewish roots. The collective dining hall gave way to the intimacy of the home and a return to the family as the basic social unit. Within this atmosphere, Shabbat, the Pesach Seder and Chanukah candle-lighting take on new meaning for the individual.”

“I enjoyed Schechter because it brought an approach to religion that accepted rationality, modernity and aspired to gender equality.”

The Builder
Roni Gur, 32, teacher of art and dance; writer of a children’s column on the Arts for Israeli daily Makor Rishon; grew up in a religious Zionist home in Haifa; splits her time between Haifa where she teaches and Jerusalem where she studies at Schechter.

The Blueprint
“I teach art in the morning, dance in the afternoon and write at night. As a religious woman drawn to the arts, all my life I have heard that I will have to make compromises. At Schechter, I learned that Judaism also speaks in the ‘voice of the woman’, and this dialogue allows for self-expression within the bounds of Jewish law.”

The Bridge
Roni teaches young women subjects that are not the standard fare for a religious girls’ high school. The issues of “modesty” and “graven images” resonate with age-old taboos within her community. But her studies at Schechter have empowered her both professionally and personally. “I’m not only a teacher, but I am a religious woman who serves as an example to my students. Together, through art, we deal with extremely sensitive issues that touch upon social norms, sexuality, family relations and more.”

Roni is majoring in Jewish Women’s Studies. “Up until now, I was not accustomed to having teachers ask me what I think. At Schechter, we grapple with real issues that strike at the essence of who we are. I take this same courage and openness back to my students, showing them that it is not only permissible to think and to question, but it is mandatory if we want to contribute to our society as women and as artists.”
Schechter Scholarship for the Community

Conferences Sponsored by Schechter

Focus ON: World Congress of Jewish Studies

The World Congress of Jewish Studies, which meets every four years in Jerusalem, is the largest international convention of Jewish Studies and a central event in the world of academic Jewish Studies. Schechter sponsored two special double sessions at the Congress in honor of two Schechter publications that came out in summer 2009: *Midrash Shmuel*, the first publication of Schechter’s Midrash Project and the new Hebrew edition with a new index of Louis Ginzberg’s *Legends of the Jews*. Altogether, 25 Schechter faculty members and lecturers chaired sessions or taught at this prestigious gathering of world Jewish scholars.

* The Synagogues of Izmir Study Evening with Prof. Yom-Tov Assis and Dr. Doron Bar, July 2009
* Closing Faculty Study Evening, “500 Years Since 1492,” a musical lecture with opera composer, Prof. Andre Haidu, June 2009
* Fifth Annual Sarah Becker Frank Conference on Jewish Women’s Studies: *Women Create - Feminist Creation?* June 2009
* 26th Annual Study Evening in memory of Prof. Saul Lieberman, The Schocken Institute, April 2009
* Book launching of *The Schechter Haggadah* with lectures by Dr. Joshua Kulp, Prof. David Golinkin and Dr. Shula Laderman, April 2009


Annual Rabbi David Aronson Memorial Symposium on Biblical Criticism with lectures by Prof. David Weiss Halivni, Prof. David Golinkin and Dr. David Frankel, January 2009

Book launching of *The Song of Songs: A Woman in Love*, by Rabbi Benjamin J. Segal, co-sponsored with Kehillat Moreshet Avraham, Melitz and Ramah, January 2009

Academic Conference on *Multiple Identities in Jewish Education*, sponsored by the Israeli Association for Research in Jewish Education in conjunction with eight other institutions, Oranim Teacher’s College, January 2009

Schechter Alumni Conference on *Tu Bishvat and Ecology*, with Prof. David Golinkin, Dr. Pnina Feller and Dr. Tamar Kadari, December 2008

The Center for Women in Jewish Law, *Halakhic Solutions to the Agunah Dilemma*, The Hakhei Festival of Jewish Studies, with Prof. Alice Shalvi and Rabbis Dania Villa and Monique Susskind-Goldberg, Ramat Efal, Sukkot 2008

*Gateways (She’arayikh) Jewish Learning Happening* with Prof. David Golinkin, Dr. Einat Ramon, Prof. Yossi Turner, Dr. Shula Laderman, Dr. Tamar Kadari and Dr. Rafi Kasimov, Jerusalem, October 2008

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. In 2008-09: Rabbi David Lazar, two-part lecture series, Hod V’Hadad, Kfar Saba ■ Dr. Einat Ramon, Kehillot Moriah, Haifa ■ Dr. Alon Tal, Kehillat Magen Avraham, Omer ■ Prof. David Golinkin, Kehillot Moreshet Avraham and Mayanot, Jerusalem ■ Dr. Ari Bursztein, two-part lecture series, Kehillat Ra’anana, lecture in Sukkat Shalom, Ramat Ishai ■ Rabbi Andy Sacks, two-part lecture series, Hod V’Hadad, Kfar Saba ■ Prof. Yossi Turner, Kehillat Moriah, Haifa ■ Rabbi Uri Ayalon, Kehillat Magen Avraham, Omer

Women’s Study Day Celebrates a Decade

Established in 1999, the Women’s Study Days demonstrate the true power of grass roots organization and dedication. In June, close to 300 women met in Jerusalem at the Schechter Institute to learn about *Our Bodies, Ourselves: Physical and Spiritual Wellbeing*. Sessions were taught in four languages. Sponsored by the Schechter Institute, Women’s League for Conservative Judaism and the Masorti Movement, and organized by Diane Friedgut, the study also takes place in three locations each February, drawing 400 women.
New Books 2008-09
(published by the Schechter Institute
or authored by Schechter faculty)

Perspectives on Jewish Law and
Contemporary Issues. Rabbi Wayne
Allen, Jerusalem: Schechter Institute

Sabbath Desecrator with Pareshia,
Moti Arad: New York: Jewish Theological
Seminary, 2009 (Hebrew)

Planning and Conserving Jerusalem:
The Challenge of an Ancient City 1973-
2003, Doron Bar and E. Meron (eds.),
Jerusalem: Yad Yizhak Ben Zvi, 2009

The Lovell Haggadah, Matthew
Berkowitz, second edition, Jerusalem:
Schechter Institute

The History of Kiryat Moshe and
the Ohel Yitzhak Synagogue, Yochei
Rodik and Nava Cohen Berzovsky (M.A.
graduate), Jerusalem: Mossad Harav
Kook Publishers, 2008 (Hebrew)

Mending the World after the Holocaust:
The Thought of Emil Fackenheim,
Ari Bursztein, Jerusalem: The Leo Baeck
Institute and the Bialik Institute, 2008

Legends of the Jews, Louis Ginberg,
2nd Hebrew ed. with new index by
Monique Suskind Goldberg and Sara
Ben-Moshe; introductions by David
Golinkin and Avigdor Shinan; Jerusalem:
Schechter Institute, 2009

Kuntress Ha-Teshuvot He-hadash: A
Bibliographic Thesaurus of Responsa
Literature Published from ca.
1470-2000, Vol. 3, ed. Shmuel Glick,
Jerusalem & Ramat-Gan: co-published
with Bar Ilan University Law Faculty
and the Schocken Institute, 2009 (Hebrew
with English summaries)

Sourcebook for the History of Jewish
Education, Responsa from European
Lands, (16th-20th Centuries) Vols. 5-6,
Shmuel Glick, Jerusalem: Schocken Institute
and Lifshitz College, 2009 (Hebrew)

The Schechter Haggadah: Art, History
and Commentary, commentary, Joshua
Kulp; illuminations, David Golinkin,
Jerusalem: Schechter Institute, 2009

Midrash Shmuel, ed., Berachyahu
Lifshitz, Jerusalem: Schechter Institute,
2009 (Hebrew)

From Breslau to Jerusalem: Rabbinical
Seminaries in the Past, Present and
Future, ed., Guy Miron, Jerusalem: with
Leo Baeck Institute, 2009 (Hebrew)

Jews at the Crossroads: The Debate
on Jewish Identity in Hungary
between Crisis and Renewal 1908-
1926, eds. Guy Miron and Anna Salai,
Tel Aviv: Bar Ilan University, 2008 (Hebrew)

NASHIM, A Journal of Jewish
Women’s Studies and Gender
Issues, academic editor, Renée
Levine Melammed, managing editor,
Deborah Greniman, co-published with
Hadassah-Brandeis Institute and Indiana
University Press: No. 16, Women and
Books (2), Consulting Editor: Wendy
Zierler, Fall 2008; No. 17, Sexuality in
Jewish Contexts, Consulting Editor: Tova
Hartman, Spring 2009

Interaction between Judaism and
Christianity in History, Religion, Art
and Literature, eds., Joseph Turner,
Joshua Schwartz and Marcel Poorhuis,
Leiden: Brill Publishers, 2009

FOCUS ON: Schechter Haggadot
– Bestsellers Two Haggadot were
published by Schechter in the last two
years. The Lovell Haggadah, now in its
2nd printing, sold out 3500 copies in two
months in its first printing. The Schechter
Haggadah sold out 2500 copies in
February-April 2009. A second printing
is underway. Altogether, 14 media
items on the Haggadot appeared in
Israeli and overseas press in advance
of Pesach 2009.

Books to be Published in 2009-10
Ask the Rabbi, Monique Suskind
Goldberg and Diana Vilia ■ Malki
Bakodesh, Volume 2, Rabbi Hayyim
Hirschenson, ed., David Zohar ■ Esther
Rabbah, eds., Yosef Tabori and Arnon
Atzmon ■ Responsa in a Moment,
Volume 2, David Golinkin ■ Responsa
of the Vaad Halakhah, Volume 7,
eds., Monique Suskind Goldberg and
David Golinkin ■ Megillat Hahatulim,
an illuminated Megillah ■ The Hebrew
Writings of Prof. A.J. Heschel, eds.,
Avraham Shapira and Dror Bondi
Academic News

New Deans Elected: Rabbi Moshe Silberschein has been elected Dean of the Schechter Rabbinical Seminary and Rabbi Tamar Elad-Appelbaum, Associate Dean. The team succeeds Rabbi Dr. Einat Ramon who will return to research and teaching at Schechter after a successful four-year term as dean.

Rabbi Silberschein, an expert in Jewish liturgy (siddur and piyut), rabbinic literature and medieval biblical commentaries, is a respected Jewish scholar and veteran faculty member at the Hebrew Union College in Jerusalem. He received ordination from the Jewish Theological Seminary in 1981. Rabbi Elad-Appelbaum exemplifies the “new breed” of young Israeli spiritual leaders. Receiving ordination from the Schechter Rabbinical Seminary in 2005, Rabbi Elad-Appelbaum most recently directed the Makhillim Program to train Masorti community professionals in Israel.

Fifty Israeli and Overseas Rabbinical Students studied at Schechter in 2008-09. Three new students began rabbinical studies in Fall 2008: Arnie Ben Dor, program director and gabbai of Kehillat Ya’ar Ramot in Jerusalem; Hagit Dotan, a graduate of Tehudah, one of the most prestigious programs for Jewish leadership in Israel, and a community leader in Modi’in; and Oshrat Cohen, a Sorbonne graduate and Jewish educator who worked with the Masorti Adath Shalom Kehilla in Paris before aliyah. An additional two students, from the former Soviet Union and Argentina, began a preparatory year before acceptance to the full program.

Ordination 2008: Rabbis Yoav Ende and Jonathan Sadoff were ordained at Schechter’s 21st Ordination Ceremony held in Jerusalem on December 4th, 2008. Yoav Ende is spiritual leader of Kibbutz Hannaton and director of its educational center and Jonathan Sadoff will serve as Associate Rabbi of Adath Jeshurun in Minneapolis, MN.

Ordination 2009: Six rabbis will be ordained on December 13, 2009 in Jerusalem. Congratulations to Dubi Haiyun, Legacy Heritage Fellow and rabbi of Kehillat Moriah, Haifa; Michal Schwartz, Legacy Heritage Fellow, working in the TALI schools, chaplaincy and Legacy Learning Communities; Dr. Rafi Kassimov, veteran Midreshet Yerushalayim Tel Aviv lecturer with classes of over 100 Russian-speakers; David Toubul, rabbi of the Masorti Kehillah in Nice, France; Eli Malchi, coordinator of Jewish identity projects at the Frankel Family Center, Jerusalem and Arnon Bruckstein, Kehillat Yedid Nefesh, Modi’in.

2008-09 Program Highlights

Legacy Heritage Rabbinic Fellows Program In its second year, the program, with a major grant from the Legacy Heritage Fund Limited, is developing a new model to stimulate Jewish religious and cultural life in Israel through the establishment of Learning Communities. In cooperation with the Masorti Movement, Schechter is creating a pool of new communities with which to pair Legacy fellows as they take on the challenge of community building.

Legacy Fellows established six Learning Communities in 2008-09 including Messilot Tzion (west of Jerusalem), Matan Horashim (southern Sharon), Nes Tziona (near Rehovot), Kibbutz Beit Hashita (Jezreel Valley), Ma’ale Adumim (near Jerusalem) and Nahariya. Initial work has also begun in the Neve Yosef neighborhood of Haifa. For 2009-2010, negotiations are underway to place Fellows in new communities including Petach Tikvah, Rishon Lezion, Hadera and Ashdod.
The program provides a fellowship for study and 3-year positions following graduation for twelve committed rabbinical students. A major component is a broadening of professional training for the Fellows, designed to enhance their effectiveness within the communities that they will be developing following ordination. The program offered new courses in Psychological Intervention, seminars on NPO Leadership and Management, a track leading to Teacher Certification, and ongoing supervision in the facilitation and development of Learning Communities.

FOCUS ON: Rabbi Ari Oliszewski, overseas student from the Seminario Rabinico, Buenos Aires, ordained June 2009 in Argentina. He writes:

“Dear Rabbis Golinkin, Ramon and Tucker, ...I have just finished my studies in this home of mine - a home that opened its doors to me. I must thank you for this year of high level studies. A year of friendship. A year of support. A year that actualized my dream: being ordained a rabbi in Jerusalem!”

FOCUS ON: Legacy Jewish Source Study Guides, creative in content and design, are bringing the Jewish holidays and tradition to life for participants of the Learning Communities. Purim, Passover, Shavuot, Israel Independence Day and Tisha B’av-Tu B’av study guides were distributed to all Schechter students and graduates, Masorti Kehillot, Legacy Learning Centers and students participating in the Hebrew University’s teaching certificate program. Guides are geared for independent intergenerational learning within the family or community.

Chaplaincy Program: Three years ago, Schechter pioneered the first accredited chaplaincy program in Israel with Cecil Asekoff, the National Association of Jewish Chaplains, and Rabbi Zahara Davidovich-Farkash, Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital. Today, nine graduates have completed one unit of Clinical Pastoral Education. Six students are working in the Asaf Harofe Hospital Oncology and Dialysis Departments, a senior citizens home, and most recently, a drug rehabilitation center. Students attend an intensive summer chaplaincy program which combines fieldwork with classroom study with Schechter faculty and guest lecturers.

1. Rabbis Jonathan Sadoff and Yoav Ende at ordination 2. Legacy Jewish Source Study Guide 3. Hila Zemer awards Rabbi Dubi Haiyon Pastoral Counseling Certification 4. Reverend John de Velder (right), Director of Pastoral Care, Robert Wood Johnson Hospital, observes chaplaincy class at Schechter 5. Prof. Moshe Benovitz (left) with overseas student 6. Argentinean students invite colleagues to BBQ on Schechter lawn 7. Annual Memorial Service for Matt Eisenfeld z”l and Sarah Duker z”l 8. Rabbis E nit Ramon and David Galinkin (right) speak with children of Ashkelon’s Netzach Yisrael Masorti congregation on a visit to Schechter

“Kehillot Sharot-Singing Communities” Workshop
A workshop featuring liturgists, artists and researchers brought together the traditions of music and prayer from the East and West in four lively sessions for Schechter students, faculty and staff.

Out of Rockets Way. Schechter opened its heart to the children of Israel’s south during the recent war. Rabbinical students went south to help prepare bomb shelters and distribute toys, and to Haifa and Jerusalem, to take children out of the war zone and into city museums. Schechter also hosted the children of Ashkelon’s Netzach Yisrael Masorti congregation, led by Rabbi Gustavo Suraszy, as part of a day trip to visit Jerusalem sites.
Rabbinical Seminary Bridge-Builders

The Builder
Michal Schwartz, 39, 2009 Rabbinical Graduate; Legacy Heritage Rabbinic Fellow at the Matan Learning Community; TALI rabbi; chaplaincy work with oncology patients and senior citizens; lives in Petach Tivkah; mother of four.

The Blueprint
“I look back on my Schechter years as a gift. I received the opportunity to learn, to dedicate all my resources to study and personal growth. I leave not only with the title ‘Rabbi’, but as a different person.”

The Bridge
Serving as TALI rabbi at the Megged Ra’anana elementary school for the past three years, Michal worked closely with the schools’ teachers and students. Often armed with a guitar and the TALI prayer book, she was “able to delve deeper than the teachers” into existential issues and matters of faith. She will continue at the school with a new pre-school program for four TALI kindergartens in the Ra’anana area. A graduate of SRS’s first accredited chaplaincy program in Israel, Michal will continue to work in this new field of spiritual care in Israel.

The “Matan Torah” Learning Community which Michal has led since its inception in 2008, meets once a month to uncover the connections between modern Hebrew literature and Jewish commentaries. “My work as a rabbi is more crucial today than when I began the rabbinic program. Then, Israeli society, although in need of a spiritual component, was mainly ignorant of that fact. Today, many more Israelis feel the spiritual and cultural vacuum in which they live. They are looking for meaningful answers.”

The Builder
Rabbi Roberto Arbib, 50, rabbi of Tel Aviv’s Kehillat Sinai and Midreshet Iyun; TALI rabbi in three Tel Aviv schools; leads an Actors’ Bet Midrash; Educational Director of the new Schechter Center for Jewish Culture in Neve Zedek, to be dedicated in May 2010; Schechter Ordination, 1991.

The Blueprint
“There is a revolution happening before our eyes. A longing here in Israel for a new kind of Judaism. In Neve Zedek we will be providing a ‘holy place’ where prayer, music, drama and dance come together to form the religious experience.”

The Bridge
When Roberto Arbib arrived in Tel Aviv in 1991, the city was a religious and cultural desert. There was an outright rejection of religion. But Roberto, always an iconoclast, set down roots, believing that a ‘sea change’ in Israeli cultural norms would be taking place in Tel Aviv, not Jerusalem. Since those early years, he has built up a vibrant Masorti community and Bet Midrash on trendy Bogroshov St. that caters to an Israeli crowd searching for Jewish roots in a spiritual environment.

Roberto envisions the new Schechter Center for Jewish Culture in Neve Zedek to be a completely Israeli creation. It will not only be a synagogue, but a “cultural-spiritual center of Judaism” in the heart of one of Tel Aviv’s most gentrified neighborhoods. “I am finally seeing my dream come to fruition.”
The Builder:
Dina Rosenberg, 25, JTS student; spent the year in Jerusalem in the Schechter overseas program; grew up in Los Angeles with a strong connection to Conservative life and Temple Aliyah.

The Blueprint:
“The learning was skill-based and put us ‘squarely into the moment.’ Because of Schechter’s strong emphasis on Talmud and Halakhah, I feel that I can make decisions based on an informed knowledge of Jewish Law – perfect for the teaching and mentoring challenges that lay ahead!”

The Bridge:
Dina’s year at Schechter, along with 33 other rabbinic colleagues from the Jewish Theological Seminary in New York, Ziegler School of Rabbinic Studies in Los Angeles, the Seminario Rabinico in Buenos Aires and other seminaries, allowed for a deeper and more meaningful encounter with Israel and its people. Her Hebrew skills dramatically increased, as did her ability to work with Talmudic texts.

Dina will be interned at the Germantown Jewish Center in Philadelphia during the summer and next year at Columbia University’s Hillel House. She has received a Legacy Fellowship for work with the Biloxi Jewish community, still recovering from the ravages of Hurricane Katrina.

“I return to the U.S. with a stronger sense of halakhic authority and sense of self – both crucial to defining my rabbinic character. The year at Schechter surpassed all of my expectations!”

The Builder:
Dubi (Dov) Haiyun, 50, 2009 Rabbinical Graduate; Rabbi of Kehillat Moriah and Midreshet Moriah, Haifa; Legacy Heritage Rabbinic Fellow at Bet Midrash Learning Communities in Kfar Tabor and Neve Yosef neighborhood, Haifa; PhD candidate, Bar Ilan University.

The Blueprint:
“The words of Shimon the Righteous (Ethics of the Fathers) are my constant guide: The world stands on three things - on Torah, Avodah and Gemilut Hasidim. Torah is our Bet Midrash - our Learning Community; Avodah is synagogue worship and Gemilut Hasidim (acts of loving kindness) allows us to heal ourselves and the larger society in which we live.”

The Bridge:
“Give a job to a busy man” is wisdom that Dubi Haiyun takes to heart. He began his stint as rabbi at Haifa’s Kehillat Moriah a year ago while still a rabbinical student at Schechter. In that short time and with only a half-time position, he has breathed new life into the community, creating ‘round-the-clock programming geared to every age. Plans are underway for a new building which will house Midreshet Moriah, a Bet Midrash that will offer Jewish studies to all residents of the area.

As a Legacy Heritage Rabbinic Fellow, Dubi taught at the Bet Midrash Learning Community in Kibbutz Beit Hashita. He mentors a new community in Kfar Tabor and has established a similar group in a disadvantaged neighborhood of Haifa where the emphasis will be placed on Sephardi traditions and culture. “My approach is holistic. As a spiritual leader, I must ‘be there’ for fellow congregants at every level of belief and at each stage of the life cycle.”
TALI Growth

2008-09: Ten new schools and two pre-schools joined TALI

2009-10: Nine new schools and 15 pre-schools will join TALI, bringing the TALI student population to more than 35,000

TALI at 10%: TALI schools comprises 10% of all elementary schools in the secular public school system

Building TALI Resources

The Educational Leadership Program was established a decade ago to develop competent and professional educational leadership, conversant with Jewish texts and capable of achieving the goals of TALI schools. To date, 140 TALI teachers and principals have graduated from the two-year program, with the vast majority of them going on for an M.A. in Jewish Studies at the Schechter Institute. The program’s impact on participants is profound. Discovering the world of Jewish sources, they learn how to transmit this content to their pupils. They also impact on their fellow teachers and improve the school-wide level of Jewish studies.

For 2009-10: Two groups totaling 45 educators will be learning in the program, with 19 graduates learning at Schechter for an M.A. degree.

FOCUS ON: Professional Development for TALI Pedagogic Counselors is a new initiative designed to expand the counselor’s role from a transmitter of knowledge to the school staff into an agent of significant change for the pedagogic infrastructure of the school. The program began in June 2009 with a week-long seminar for the pedagogic counselors. Their end goal: to empower the local Jewish Studies coordinators at the schools to assume pedagogical authority to access and adopt existing educational resources.

TALI Parental Empowerment Project has grown significantly to six national groups totaling 150 parents from 43 schools. Meeting regularly, the Parents’ Forum is attaining its goals to make parents active partners in Jewish education, raise their awareness and commitment to TALI, and give them tools for reinforcing Jewish education in the home. In addition, local TALI Parents’ Committees have been established in fifteen schools. Sixteen parental initiatives were implemented in schools including Seder Pesach, Seven Species Corner, Heritage Rooms, Parents Bet Midrash, a “Judaism and Ecology” Rainwater Collection Project and more. Two national events were held: a Shabbat retreat in Jerusalem in December 2008 and an evening event in Tel Aviv in May 2009.

A Parents’ Bulletin and the Parents’ Forum page on the TALI website are new tools created for networking purposes.

TALI Textbooks More than 20,000 TALI textbooks were sold in 2008-09 to TALI and non-TALI schools, in Israel and overseas, including the “bestseller” Shirat Halev Siddur which has already gone into a second printing.

Books published in 2008-09

- Learning Together, Unit One on “Coping with Jealously” and Unit Two on “Sorry to criticize, but...” - How to hear criticism and learn from it; how to criticize so that it can be heard.
- Times to Celebrate; Times to Remember, two books on teaching the cycle of holidays, 4th grade.
- Rediscovering the Holidays: A New Perspective on the Jewish Festivals, by Dr. Pnina Feller, for teachers and adults. To date, a total of 32 textbooks and other educational resources have been published.

2008-09 Numbers

- 183 schools and pre-schools
- 35,000 students
- 1500 teachers receive in-service training
- 150 parents in Parental Leadership Program
- 20 pedagogic counselors
- 40 TALI teachers and principals in TALI Leadership Program
- 15 TALI rabbis in over 60 schools
- 500 learning hours in teacher room workshops and summer seminars
- 5 TALI textbooks published

TALI Education Fund

2008-09 Numbers

- 183 schools and pre-schools
- 35,000 students
- 1500 teachers receive in-service training
- 150 parents in Parental Leadership Program
- 20 pedagogic counselors
- 40 TALI teachers and principals in TALI Leadership Program
- 15 TALI rabbis in over 60 schools
- 500 learning hours in teacher room workshops and summer seminars
- 5 TALI textbooks published
FOCUS ON: The Sixth Award Ceremony of the Devorah and Shraga Genger Prize for Excellence in TALI Education was held in Jerusalem in June 2009. Genger Prize awards went to Hadassah Gilor, Principal, TALI Ben Gurion School, Kiryat Motzkin and the teaching staff of TALI Hod Hasharon. For the first time, the Genger Prize was awarded to pre-school teachers. Smadar Ben Avraham and Etti Hamami, from Congregation Nezach Yisrael TALI kindergartens, Ashkelon, received the prize.

New Initiatives

The Dialogue and Identity Project completed a second year of successful encounters where Arab and Jewish children learn about their own religious identity while nurturing tolerance and openness towards the other. The eight founding schools in the program (four TALI and four Arab-sector schools) returned to participate in 2008-09, sending new classes of 240 pupils and 16 teachers (four of whom are new). Each encounter is preceded by preparatory work and followed by summary meetings. Eight Hebrew-Arabic language interpreters were introduced into the program in 2008-09. The model is unique in that it fosters direct relationships between school staffs and trains the teachers to facilitate the programming, enabling it to become a sustainable part of the school curriculum. The “Pajama Library” Project, for pre-school-age children debuted in a number of TALI pre-schools in Spring 2009. Tirza Rotkowitz and Sylvia Kamowitz Hareven, from the TALI Education Fund, are advisors to the program which distributes a select group of children’s books together with content sheets for parents to discuss Jewish values reflected in the stories. Founded and funded by the Grinspoon Foundation, the project was initially implemented in North American Jewish communities where it has met with great success. The Magen David Jewish Day School in Mexico City has partnered with the TALI Education Fund to create a six-year curriculum for grades 7-12. The first book for 7th graders is already in use, with a second on the way. The curriculum, written in Hebrew and then translated and printed in Mexico, integrates Bible with Jewish History and Culture. TEF staff traveled to Mexico in December to give a training seminar on how to teach the material.

In Denmark: A Jewish Day School in Copenhagen approached TEF to provide educational materials. TEF staff gave a mini-seminar to school staff in August 2009 based on the curriculum they have created for Mexico. Further cooperation is planned.

“YahaduTALI” Radio Talk-Show Maintains High Ratings

The innovative TALI radio program produced and presented by forty fourth and fifth graders from eight schools in the Jerusalem area continued into a second successful season of broadcasts. The groups meets twice a month to produce a radio show on TALI, Judaism, the holidays, the Weekly Portion and current events.
The TALI HaDror Elementary School is located in Mevasseret Zion, a garden suburb of Jerusalem comprised of a combination of veteran Sephardi residents from North Africa and Kurdistan who were settled there in the 1950s and middle-class secular Jews seeking a higher quality of life. The school is one of the newest schools to join the TALI network of close to 190 schools and pre-schools; all 630 students (grade 1-6) receive TALI education from a teaching staff that is augmenting its Jewish knowledge at the Schechter Institute.

The Blueprint

“My obligation as head of the school is to provide knowledge and values. Giving the children an identity is an important part of the equation, but I’m afraid many Israelis do not know that they are also Jewish. TALI has solved that problem for us.”

Orit Burla, Principal

The Bridge

TALI HaDror, which was adopted by Philip and Blanche Meisel, Las Vegas, NV, has just completed its first three out of four “preparatory” years in TALI. This association entitles the school to a full range of services from the TALI Education Fund including pedagogic counseling, in-service training and workshops for the teachers, as well as a full repertoire of TALI curriculum for the students. “After three years we can really see a difference in the children. It is not only that they know what Hebrew month we are in and all about the weekly Torah portion; we also see more willingness to volunteer and help charities,” explains Michal Lichtig, teacher and Jewish studies coordinator at the school.

Michal, together with four other colleagues and school principal, Orit Burla, is enrolled in TALI’s Educational Leadership Program at the Schechter Institute. “I am secular, so the TALI leadership course has been especially important for me as a person, a Jew and a teacher. In the past two years, I have learned an incredible amount about Judaism and myself. I think this knowledge makes me much more self-confident as a teacher,” explains Michal.

It is not only the teachers who are gaining self-awareness. So are the children. “I was disheartened with the kids’ ignorance of Judaism. Not only had they never opened a siddur (prayerbook), they did not even know what a siddur was! All that has changed,” says Lori Bruck, a teacher at the school who is also enrolled in the Leadership Program at Schechter.

Bruck, who is Orthodox, admitted that in the initial stages there was fierce opposition to bringing TALI into the school. “The secular parents feared TALI would be the “Trojan Horse” leading to religious coercion, while the parents of Sephardi background who are traditional or Orthodox were even more hostile to the idea.” As one initially skeptical parent admitted, “There are beautiful things in Judaism and that’s what TALI emphasizes.” When the official TALI sign recently went up at the entrance to the school, Lori knew that “TALI in Mevasseret is here to stay.”
The Builder

TALI Hod Hasharon, an elementary and junior high school with more than 500 children in first to ninth grades, is one of the founding TALI schools. Established in 1982 in Hod Hasharon, a city of nearly 50,000 in the Sharon region east of Tel Aviv, the school has come to play an important role in disseminating Jewish culture to Hod Hasharon and the surrounding area. In 2009, the school won the prestigious Genger Prize for Excellence.

The Blueprint:

“Most Israeli children grow up with little understanding of Zionism and why they are here, and no connection to Judaism. This is not the case with the thousands of graduates of TALI Hod Hasharon.”

Avigail Gurievsky
Jewish Studies Coordinator

The Bridge

TALI Hod Hasharon boasts a number of “two generation families” - those parents who attended the school in the 1980s and are now sending their own children. Rachi Ofir, an alumna of the school, sends her daughter, Shani, 8. “We immigrated to Israel from Australia when I was a child. My parents were surprised that the ‘Jewish State’ was not providing its pupils with a Jewish education. Religious schools would not have us because we were not religious enough. TALI was exactly what my parents were looking for – a pluralistic religious approach,” explains Rachi.

New York-born Avigail Gurievsky, Jewish Studies Coordinator at the elementary school since it opened in 1982, reflects on the changes that have taken place at the school.

“We have a much smaller percentage of ‘Anglos’ today [immigrants from Western countries]. “I’ve had to become more sensitive to a variety of cultural norms. We have many families from Sephardi backgrounds who are less open to egalitarianism, for example.”

Avigail, a graduate of the Schechter M.A. program (2000) and its TALI Leadership Development Program (2005) gives credit to the Schechter Institute “for helping me refine my teaching methods, making them more inclusive. After more than 25 years of TALI education, our children and their families and the community at large are more aware of non-orthodox Judaism,” explains Avigail.

Riki Lapidot, Coordinator of Jewish Studies in the Junior High School, feels that TALI has enhanced the Jewish atmosphere in the city. “About three years ago a group of parents started a Masorti community in the school’s synagogue. This year, a Noam (Masorti) youth group was established. The first group of counselors are all graduates of the school,” she adds.

In addition to the classic Jewish studies component, the school also stresses the extra-curricular. This includes a partnership with the nearby Tzurim Special Needs School, especially during the bar/bat mitzvah year and a program on the connection between Judaism and the environment. In the words of TALI Hod Hasharon Principal, Orit Bar-Or, “The school’s students and graduates are role models for the citizens of Hod Hasharon. The hundreds of families who have been part of the school make a direct impact on Jewish culture in Hod Hasharon.”
Israel

2008-09 Numbers

- 16 Jewish studies courses in Jerusalem, Tel Aviv, Haifa, Karmiel, Maale Adumim and Ashdod
- 8 MILI clubs in Jerusalem, Yavneh, Bat Yam, Haifa, Karmiel, Eilat, Beer Sheva and Bet Shemesh; with over 300 participants
- 3 MILI National Competitions, attracting over 400 participants at each event for Hanukah, Purim and Jerusalem Day events
- Over 100 students a month at Jerusalem's Israel Culture Club take classes on Ancient Hebrew Manuscripts, Jewish Music Appreciation, Modern Hebrew Literature and Land of Israel studies
- 12,000 visitors per year go to the Midreshet Yerushalayim Jewish studies resource website: www.mili.org.il
- 35 regular participants in the weekly “Heritage Trail” (Shvilei Moreshet) seminars and fieldtrips on The Ethnology of Jerusalem
- NEW! MILI International clubs were established in Kharkov and Vinnitsa, Ukraine (with plans to open in Kiev or Lvov, Ukraine and Mannheim, Germany).

New Initiatives

The Kerem Midrasha for Jewish Culture staged a gala opening in Karmiel’s Kehillat Hakerem with a Shavuot study evening for Israelis and Russian-speaking immigrants in May 2009. Over 150 people came to hear Israeli best-selling author and Schechter graduate, Yochi Brandes, speak on Megillat Ruth: A Male or Female Reading? and Prof. David Golinkin share insights on Shavuot Customs – East and West.

Kerem Midrasha, which represents a new model for Learning Centers, will be directed by Ron Nissel, a Schechter M.A. graduate (see profile, page 23) in conjunction with Kehillat HaKerem, led by Schechter graduate Rabbi Reuven Resnick. In partnership with the Masorti Movement, the new Learning Centers are geared toward Hebrew-speakers. This model of learning center already operates in Tel Aviv’s Midreshet Iyun for many years. The concept will be expanded in 2009-10 to include a new center in Haifa’s Kehillat Moriah, with lectures by Schechter faculty and graduates.

Midreshet Yerushalayim-Ashdod Initiates “Clean-Up” of Jerusalem’s Sanhedrin Graves While touring this ancient site with course instructor Dr. Rafi Kassimov, the group was appalled by its neglected condition. In response, they organized a clean-up campaign of the graves, replete with signs in Russian, Hebrew and English describing the historical importance of the site in Jewish history.

FOCUS ON: MILI Olami International Jewish Culture Clubs, in partnership with the Jewish Agency, have taken root in Vinnitsa and Kharkov Ukraine, with the ground work laid for additional clubs. The club concept was organized by Leonid Kantor, a graduate of MILI OLAMI, a ten-month academic course run by Midreshet Yerushalayim and funded by Legacy Heritage Fund Limited in 2007, which prepared a select group for informal Jewish education leadership roles in the FSU and Germany. Together with Haim Neimark, a veteran Midreshet Yerushalayim educator, they have set up vibrant clubs in Vinnitsa and Kharkov that attract between 50-150 young people for Jewish learning, MILI Jewish-content game competitions and holiday celebrations. Pilot programs took place in Kiev and Lvov in 2009.
Ukraine

1,000 children and their families participated in Midreshet Yerushalayim Jewish learning, the only Conservative Jewish educational network in the former Soviet Union, through the following education frameworks:

■ Six TALI Family Education Centers in Kiev, Donetsk, Chernivtsi, Berdichev and Kirovograd, with Chirkasi and Nikolayev Family Centers receiving pedagogical support

■ Chernivtsi TALI Day School, 320 pupils, with more than 400 attending Shabbat services and programming weekly

■ Kiev Cultural Center programming seven days a week, attracting over 200 participants weekly with Armon (Chestnut) Community Sunday School, Kiev Beit Midrash, weekly pre-Kabbalat Shabbat Havruta study, Clubs in Jewish Film, Drama and Literature and Poetry

■ 16th Annual Ramah-Ukraine Summer Camp, 160 teenagers, 15 counselors

■ 6th Ramah-Ukraine Family Camp, 30 families (100 children and parents)

■ Rabbi David Clayman Memorial Resource Library serving hundreds in the Kiev Jewish Cultural Center and Ramah-Ukraine summer camps

■ Turetsky Rabbinical Intern, Reuven Stamov (see profile p. 23) traveled to Ukraine four times for teaching and conducting religious services as the future Masorti Olami rabbi of the Kiev Jewish community

■ A five day teachers’ training seminar focusing on Jewish-Zionist education in Ukraine, was enriched with scholars-in-residence, Schechter lecturer Dr. Yair Paz and Ayala Paz; attended by 55 teachers from Midreshet Yerushalayim schools and 11 Hebrew and Jewish studies teachers who work in other ulpanim, Jewish schools and universities, Kiev, July 2009

■ Midreshet Yerushalayim-Marom Seminars, funded by Masorti Olami, took place in August 2008 and in April and May 2009. Leadership delegations representing the more than 150 Marom university students came together for socializing and Jewish learning. The May seminar stressed leadership training for summer camps and included Ramah-Ukraine counselors.

■ Temple Beth-El, Belmore, NY Delegation Donates Torah Scroll In a historic ceremony in December 2008, the TALI Chernivtsi school proudly received a Torah scroll from leaders of Temple Beth-El in Belmore, NY.

The Torah, whose donation was facilitated by Buddy and Fran Brandt, Lido Beach, NY, will be read on weekdays, Shabbatot and special occasions.

FOCUS ON: A Conversion Ceremony for Seven Midreshet Yerushalayim graduates of the Chernivtsi TALI school and veteran Ramah-Ukraine Camp counselors took place in August 2009 at the camp site. Rabbi Chaim Weiner, head of the Masorti European Bet Din in London, officiated at the emotional conversion ceremony, with Schechter graduate Rabbi Reuven Resnick and rabbinic intern Reuven Stamov serving as part of the Bet Din. The group is committed to working in Jewish education in Ukraine.
The Builder
Tatiana Tsadkin, 57, aliya from Rostov-on-Don, Russia, 1990; enrolled in one of Midreshet Yerushalayim’s earliest Jewish studies classes in Tel Aviv in 1991; two years later, Midreshet Yerushalayim hired her to teach Jewish studies in learning centers being opened in Israel’s north; she has taught Russian immigrants ever since.

The Blueprint
“My first teacher in Midreshet Yerushalayim told me that if you really study the texts with heart and soul, they become part of you and you become a part of them. What started as a ‘conversation’ with Judaism has become my ‘love affair.’ I try to convey this same passion to my students.”

The Bridge
Tatiana Tsadkin arrived in Israel as a single mother with an 18-year old daughter, no money, no home and no family. “It was crazy,” she remembers, “but the moment the plane landed, I was overjoyed. I just knew that Israel was the place we needed to be.”

Although Tatiana could have earned more money in her profession (she holds an M.A. in Engineering Sciences and was offered a job at the Technion), she was drawn to other places. After completing Midreshet Yerushalayim’s two-year course in Jewish studies, she combined ongoing learning (Jewish history courses at Haifa University and three years of Talmud study with Rabbi Gil Nativ in Kehillat Moriah in Haifa) with teaching Judaism to new immigrants like herself in Karmiel, Nesher, the Krayot and Haifa.

Tatiana muses, “Maybe I am the ‘bridge’ over all those years of war, pogroms and revolution that destroyed the Jewish community; to my great-grandfather who was a Jewish scholar in the Pale of Settlement.”

The Builder
Polina Yurkovetsky, 23, immigrated to Israel from Uzhgorod, Ukraine in April 2009; joins the more than 1200 graduates of Midreshet Yerushalayim programs from the former Soviet Union who have made aliya since 1991; a graduate of Uzhgorod University in International Relations; hopes to work in informal education once she is fluent in Hebrew.

The Blueprint
“Ten years ago I started learning in the Midreshet Yerushalayim family education center in Uzhgorod. This first real introduction to Jewish life reinforced my strong sense of Jewish identity and developed my love of Judaism and Israel.”

The Bridge
Polina Yurkovetsky has always felt a strong attachment to her Jewish roots. Influenced by the Jewish traditions practiced by her paternal grandparents, she searched for the right place in which to begin her return to Judaism. Ten years ago, at age 13, she found her “Jewish home” in Midreshet Yerushalayim. “There are many Jewish institutions operating in Uzhgorod, but what I loved about Midreshet Yerushalayim is its open-mindedness and the intellectual choices it provides. There is no coercion or brainwashing,” she explains.

Polina has been an integral part of Camp Ramah-Ukraine for the last nine years; first as a camper and for the last five years as a counselor. She met Midreshet Yerushalayim director Gila Katz in 1998. “Gila has been like a second mother to me since I made aliya,” she said. “This year I am learning to be an ‘Israel’i. Next summer I hope to be back as a counselor.”
The Builders
Reuven and Yelena Stamov, both 35, Jewish educators who met at Camp Ramah-Ukraine in 2004; Reuven is a Turetsky Rabbinical Intern, student at Schechter and rabbi at the Kiev Cultural Center; Yelena is a full-time “mom” for Miriam, age 3 and Aleza, age 1.

The Blueprint
“As rabbi of the Kiev ‘kehilla’ my dream is to establish a full-time synagogue, Jewish day school, kindergarten and a center for spiritual leadership.” Reuven Stamov

“People can only be truly happy when they are doing things that they were created for…Reuven and I are such people.” Yelena Stamov

The Bridge
In 1998, Reuven and Yelena lived 1000 km apart; he in the Crimea, she in the western Ukrainian town of Rovno. That was the year that both found their way back to Judaism. From that moment, their paths were destined to cross. They were introduced at Camp Ramah-Ukraine in 2004. They married a year later, the same year that Yelena became the director of the Midreshet Yerushalayim Donetsk Community School.

These days Reuven commutes between Jerusalem and Kiev. When not studying at Schechter, he is in the Ukrainian capital for most holidays, supervises Marom Ukraine activities for university students and serves as Camp Ramah-Ukraine rabbi every summer. He has also taught a group studying for conversion in Kiev and participated in their conversion ceremony in late summer 2009. Yelena hopes one day to study in cantorial school.

“We quickly and enthusiastically adopted and adapted to Jewish life. For both of us, giving back to the community is our greatest fulfillment,” says Yelena.

The Builder
Ron Nissel, 45, director of the first non-Orthodox Bet Midrash in the western Galilee city of Karmiel; Jewish studies teacher at Horowitz High School, Karmiel; Schechter Class of ’05.

The Blueprint
“As an educator, I say that if we don’t pass on Jewish education to our children, then it simply won’t be there for future generations.”

The Bridge
In September 2009, Ron Nissel will officially open Midreshet HaKerem for Jewish Culture and Learning to all residents of Karmiel and the surrounding area. The Bet Midrash concept expands Midreshet Yerushalayim’s original mandate of providing Jewish education to Russian-speaking immigrants to include Jewish education for the Israeli public at large.

A Schechter graduate and Jewish educator, Ron, who already runs a Bet Midrash in his home community of Yuvalim, was the natural choice to direct the Karmiel program.

Ron was about to embark on an M.A. in Education when he decided instead to do an M.A. in Jewish Studies. “My decision to change course came at exactly the right time. I felt that the Israeli education system was lacking in Jewish content and I wanted to do something about it. The Schechter Institute gave me that opportunity.”

The Bet Midrash will operate out of the Masorti Congregation HaKerem, led by Schechter graduate Rabbi Reuven Resnick. Initially, the Bet Midrash will offer two classes for native-born Israelis and a third class for Russian-speakers. For Ron, partnering with Kehillat Hakerem seemed a logical move. “The way Conservative Judaism has fused Jewish tradition with modern scientific rational thought and egalitarianism speaks to my generation of Israeli,” sums up Ron.

The Builders
Reuven and Yelena Stamov, both 35, Jewish educators who met at Camp Ramah-Ukraine in 2004; Reuven is a Turetsky Rabbinical Intern, student at Schechter and rabbi at the Kiev Cultural Center; Yelena is a full-time “mom” for Miriam, age 3 and Aleza, age 1.

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“We quickly and enthusiastically adopted and adapted to Jewish life. For both of us, giving back to the community is our greatest fulfillment,” says Yelena.
The Schechter Institutes, Inc.

Highlights of Activities

Between July 1, 2008 and June 30, 2009, The Schechter Institutes, Inc. received $4.9 million over and above capital gifts for its numerous programs and activities in Jerusalem and across Israel and Eastern Europe. This represents a 9% decrease in operating income from the previous year. We are grateful to our donor community, whose belief in our mission continues to sustain Schechter, despite the uncertain global economic climate. With the recovery of the dollar towards the end of last year, Schechter did not suffer a loss in actual shekel income over the previous year, and some of its programs were able to continue their expansion to meet demand.

Capital Campaigns

Jerusalem Campus Through June 30, 2009, The Schechter Institutes, Inc. has received $9.1 million in commitments, $7.1 million of which is designated towards the Legacy Heritage Fund Limited Classroom Building currently under construction. An additional $900,000 must be raised in 2009-10, to complete the $8 million building. The additional $2 million commitment to the campus is the lead gift for the Rabbi Marc and Dr. Henia Liebhaber Center for Jewish Education.

Neve Zedek Through June 30, 2009, The Schechter Institutes, Inc. has received $2.8 million in commitments for the renovation of the Schechter Center for Jewish Culture in Neve Zedek - Legacy Heritage Building and Courtyard.

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

Anonymous (Ramat Aviv) – Neve Zedek Center Programming and TALI Dialogue and Identity Program

State Administered Bequest (Aprotropos) – TALI Dialogue and Identity Program

Arigatou Foundation – TALI Dialogue and Identity Program

Mort and Malvina z”l and Rabbi Gary Charlestein - Capital Gift to Jerusalem Campus

Claims Conference – New TALI Holocaust (Shoah) Curriculum

Dr. Raymond and Bernice Coll General Support

Lester Crown and Family – Capital Gift to Jerusalem Campus

Gary Gross – Adoption of New TALI School

Jewish Child’s Day in Partnership with New North London Synagogue Ramah – Ukraine

Simha and Sara Lainer Family Foundation – Capital Gift to Schechter Center for Jewish Culture, Neve Zedek

David and Debra Magerman Adoption of New TALI School

Aaron and Randie Malinsky Adoption of New TALI School

Masorti Olami – Community Development in Ukraine

David and Inez Meyers Foundation Adoption of New TALI School

Lou and Judy Miller – Video Conferencing Equipment

Jillian and Lawrence Neubauer and Melissa and Paul Anderson Adoption of New TALI School

Rabbi Buddy Sachs z”l - Bequest for the Schechter Library

Rabbi Marty and Jeanne Sandberg Bequest to Rabbinical Seminary for summer program for Rabbis

Howard and Carole Tanenbaum 2nd edition, Schechter Haggadah

Peter and Debbie Wexler – New Midresheh Yerushalayim Learning Center in Karmiel
Schechter Center for Jewish Culture in Neve Zedek
Founders Gifts - Israel
($10,000 and above)

David and Karen Hendler Kremerman
Prof. Paul and Etta Rozen
Shoshana and Selco Solomon
Dr. Amir Szold

Fundraising in Israel
In October 2009, a dinner was held in the courtyard Sukkah of the Schechter Center for Jewish Culture in Neve Zedek. The evening, which was introduced by Board member Collette Avital, and capped off by a solo performance by popular Israeli singer David Broza, successfully raised funds from local residents for Schechter’s new Center in Tel Aviv.

David and Karen Kremerman held a study evening of Light and Renewal in their Jaffa home. The evening launched a Tel Aviv Schechter learning community exposing over 80 influential Tel Avivians to the value and prospective impact of Schechter’s Neve Zedek Center. The study group met five times over the course of the year. Schechter faculty, including Prof. David Golinkin, Dr. Eina Ramon and Rabbi Roberto Arbib taught the group.

Ms. Eva Hershkowitz hosted a study group in her Ramat Aviv home. Meeting five times, the group focused on Arab-Jewish relations and specifically, the new Dialogue and Identity TALI education program.

Scott and Susan Shay TALI Director General, Dr. Eitan Chikli spoke to the group, which included Tel Aviv Deputy Mayor Meital Lahavi, Councilman Mahmoud Masrawi and Schechter Board Member Colette Avital.

Los Angeles Friends of Schechter Committee
The Los Angeles Friends of Schechter Committee, under the leadership of Lou Miller, Bruce Whizin and Sandra Braun, has taken an active role on behalf of the Schechter Institutes. Established at the beginning of 2008, the Committee has achieved notable success in fundraising for the Schechter Center for Jewish Culture in Neve Zedek, the TALI Education Fund and other Schechter programs and activities.

In September 2008 the committee organized a lecture by Professor David Golinkin and a reception hosted by Mark Lainer, Dr. Richard Braun and Dr. David Braun at Valley Beth Shalom Congregation, and in February 2009, the Committee organized a dinner and reception at the Los Angeles B’nai Israel Congregation, which included a performance by popular Israeli singer David Broza.

Los Angeles Friends of Schechter Committee Board Members:
- Lou Miller
- Bruce Whizin
- Sandra Braun
- Eitan Chikli
- Meital Lahavi
- Mahmoud Masrawi
- Colette Avital

Los Angeles Friends of Schechter Committee Members:
- Alice Shalvi
- Eitan Cooper
- Paul Gottesman
- Morristown, NJ
- Simcha Goldsmith

Los Angeles Friends of Schechter Committee Financial Support:
- Lou and Judy Miller, active members of the LA Friends of Schechter Committee, hosted a study session with Prof. David Golinkin.
Schechter Board News

The Schechter Institutes, Inc., under the chairmanship of Robert Rifkind, held its Board of Directors meetings in New York in September 2008 and February 2009. The Schechter Institute Graduate School, led by Mr. Rifkind and by Executive Committee Chair Ya’akov Tsur, and the Rabbinical Seminary, led by Board Chair Prof. Ismar Schorsch, Executive Committee Chair Prof. Hanan Alexander and Acting Chair Shimon Lipsky, conducted their board meetings in Jerusalem in December 2008, and by video conference in Jerusalem and New York in June 2009.

New Board Leadership

The Schechter Institutes, Inc. Board of Directors: Mr. Bruce Whizin, Los Angeles, President of the Whizin Foundation

Schechter Institute of Jewish Studies (Graduate School): Dr. Yaron Dagan, Tel Aviv University and Assuta Medical Center; Adv. Miriam Rosenthal, Former Tel Aviv District Attorney; Prof. Dalia Ofer, former Academic Head, Institute of Contemporary Jewry, Hebrew University; Mr. Shaike El-Ami, Executive Director, ICCY Center, Jerusalem, Schechter M.A. graduate

Schechter Rabbinical Seminary: Prof. Ismar Schorsch, after years of devoted work, stepped down as Chair of the Board of Trustees, with Prof. Hanan Alexander elected to succeed him. Shimon Lipsky completed a successful year as acting Chair of the Executive Committee. Ilana Laderman will replace him as acting Chair in 2009-10. Mr. Alan Silberman, representing Masorti Olami, joined the Board.

TALI Education Fund: Ram Shmueli, Brigadier General and Israeli Air Force pilot, New Chair, Board and Executive Committee. New Board Members: Ms. Ariela Cotler, Israel advocacy and Jewish education, Montreal; Mr. Chen Noy, CPA; Ms. Sigal Shapira, Merrill Lynch - Israel; and Mr. Isaac (Tsachi) Mushkin, National Security Consultant

Schechter Scholarship Overseas Video Conferencing and Webinars

Schechter leadership and friends throughout North America have begun to enjoy Schechter Webinars on a regular basis. Scheduled to coincide with Jewish holidays and other important moments on the Jewish calendar, webinars have brought the value and the timely message of the Schechter Institute to donors and friends in the United States. Schechter
Budget 2009

(in US$)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Income</th>
<th>Expenses</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Schechter Institute of Jewish Studies Graduate School</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jewish Agency</td>
<td>Faculty Salaries</td>
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<tr>
<td>57,000</td>
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<td>Federations and Foundations</td>
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<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>3,340,046</strong></td>
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| **Schechter Rabbinical Seminary** |                                    |
| Jewish Agency                   | Faculty                           |
| 198,650                         | 355,490                           |
| Federations and Foundations     | Scholarships                      |
| 300,055                         | 227,692                           |
| Israeli Government              | Special Programs and Student Activities |
| 26,983                          | 122,307                           |
| Contributions                   | M.A. Program                      |
| 176,520                         | 105,128                           |
| Tuition and Fees                | Administration                     |
| 258,358                         | 149,949                           |
| **Total**                       | **960,566**                       |

| **TALI Education Fund**         |                                    |
| Jewish Agency                   | Textbook/Curriculum Development    |
| 376,375                         | 348,461                           |
| Federations                     | Pedagogical Counseling             |
| 288,500                         | 463,919                           |
| Foundations                     | School Rabbis/Experiential Programs |
| 864,000                         | 168,345                           |
| Contributions                   | Teacher and Leadership Training    |
| 501,425                         | 225,610                           |
| Israeli Government              | Early Childhood Department         |
| 10,128                          | 117,948                           |
| Fees for Sales, Services        | Special Programs                   |
| 133,423                         | 354,128                           |
| Miscellaneous                   | Network Expansion                  |
| 40,555                          | 148,750                           |
|                                  | Administration                     |
|                                  | 387,345                           |
| **Total**                       | **2,214,406**                     |

| **Midreshet Yerushalayim - Israel** |                                    |
| Jewish Agency                    | Weekly Courses and Programs        |
| 108,250                          | 63,830                            |
| Federations and Foundations      | MILI Program                       |
| 54,500                           | 54,667                            |
| Israeli Government/Municipalities | Land of Israel/Heritage Trail Courses |
| 22,008                           | 62,307                            |
| Contributions                    | Bet Midrash Development            |
| 2,025                            | 21,356                            |
| Participation and Fees           | MILI Olami Program                 |
| 43,099                           | 11,538                            |
|                                  | Administration                     |
|                                  | 25,685                            |
| **Total**                        | **227,857**                       |

| **Midreshet Yerushalayim - Ukraine** |                                    |
| Federations                      | Schools and Teacher Training       |
| 23,000                           | 91,100                            |
| Foundations                      | Camp Ramah Sessions                |
| 202,500                          | 136,500                           |
| Contributions                    | NOAM and Young Leadership Training |
| 134,000                          | 44,300                            |
| Masorti Olami                    | Hungary – Scholar-in-Residence     |
| 28,500                           | 6,000                             |
|                                  | Kiev Center                        |
|                                  | 57,300                            |
|                                  | Administration                     |
|                                  | 52,800                            |
| **Total**                        | **388,000**                       |

| **Grand Total**                 | **7,130,875**                     |

will be expanding its capacities to create a global learning community, thanks to Lou and Judy Miller who enabled the purchase of state of the art video-conferencing equipment.

In 2008-09: Prof. David Golinkin, Dr. Einit Ramon and Dr. Shula Laderman taught sessions in advance of the High Holidays. Dr. Joshua Kulp and Prof. David Golinkin introduced The Schechter Haggadah before Passover. Prof. David Golinkin taught two sessions on Jewish Law to Congregation Brith Shalom, Bellaire, TX, May 2009.

**Academic Conferences Abroad**

Prof. Renée Levine Melamed and Debbie Greniman, the Jewish Women and Philanthropy Conference, Tulane University, New Orleans, LA, July 2009.


Dr. Ari Ackerman and Dr. Brenda Bacon, The Network for Research in Jewish Education, New York, June 2009.

Dr. Yair Paz, Heidelberg University Hochschule, June 2009.

Dr. Doron Bar, Holy Sites and Holy Wars Research Symposium, University of Arizona, Phoenix, March 2009.

Dr. Einit Ramon, World Jewish Alliance Conference; Adat Shalom, Paris, February 2009.
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- The Devorah and Shraga Genger Prize for Excellence in TALI Education
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- The Ivri Scholarship Endowment
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