Bringing the Jewish People Together

Annual Report 2010 | 2011
Cover:

Do We Have a Minyan? is a play on words directed at the traditional search for the “10th man” needed to complete a prayer minyan. The work brings into stark relief the inherent tensions that live alongside our most hallowed traditions. Tradition forbids the counting of Jews. King David taught that it invites the Evil Eye. So, while waiting for a minyan to form and the next man finally arrives, the gabbai (sexton) uses a mnemonic to be certain that the quorum is accounted for. Mumbling to himself the ten words (which my artwork on the cover displays), he confirms his quorum:

“Save Your People, and bless Your heritage, tend them and elevate them forever” (Psalms, 28:9)

With the arrival of a tenth member, an assortment of individuals is suddenly transformed into a single and mandating power. Yet its inclusivity negates the non-eligible members of the community: women, the underage, the apostates; thereby, imposing a direct challenge to the community itself. - Dov Abramson

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 Conservative 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 190 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 Ukraine.

Table of Contents

2 Letters from the President and Chair
3 Bringing the Jewish People Together
4 The Graduate School
8 Scholarship for the Community
10 Schechter Rabbinical Seminary
14 TALI Education Fund
18 Midreshet Yerushalayim
22 New Campuses in Jerusalem & Tel Aviv
24 Development and Communications
27 Budget
28 Our Leadership
30 Our Donors
Bringing the Jewish People Together
A Letter from the President

Our friend Shlomo, a geologist, recently took my wife and me to three water-drilling sites in the Upper Galilee. We learned that there is a huge underground aquifer under the Galilee which was created over the course of thousands of years. They are now pumping out large quantities of water and this aquifer will soon supply all the agricultural needs of the Golan Heights in years of drought.

As I watched the water gushing from the ground, I was reminded that in many places in rabbinic literature the Torah is compared to water. "There is no water but Torah, as it is said 'Ho, all who are thirsty, go to water!' " (Bava Kamma 17a).

"Just as water goes down one drop at a time and becomes streams, thus it is with Torah, a person learns two laws today and two tomorrow. And Rabbi Dubi Haiyun is running a very successful Bet Midrash in Haifa.

"The Torah is a deep sea and man a vessel to draw water from it and he draws according to the vessel. If he comes with a spoon, he will draw a spoonful; with a jar, a jarful; with a bucket, a bucketful; with a barrel, a barrelful. He may draw as much as he wishes." (R. Yosef Yozl Hurvitz, Midot Ha'adam).

Israelis are thirsty; they are ready and willing to draw from the well of Torah. It is our job at Schechter to provide them with a spoon, a jar, a bucket and a barrel. With your help, we shall continue to quench their thirst for years to come.

Professor David Golinkin

A Letter from the Chairman

Having completed my first full year as Chairman of the Schechter Institute, I wanted to reflect on the many things that have happened. Needless to say, it has been an exciting year with many challenges and accomplishments.

Last year, we were all thrilled with the dedication of our two new buildings in Jerusalem and Tel Aviv. I am glad to report that construction is nearly complete and classes should be held in our Jerusalem building during the upcoming fall semester, with Neve Schechter in Tel Aviv, where the Masorti Kehilah in Neve Zedek will hold High Holy Day services, shortly behind. The final product exceeds all of our expectations and I urge you to see the buildings in their completed states.

The capital campaigns for these two buildings continued successfully during the year despite the difficulties posed by economic conditions and the continued strengthening of the shekel versus the dollar. I am happy to report that the Jerusalem construction is almost fully funded and that we made good progress in fundraising for Tel Aviv. However, there are still additional naming opportunities, so don't be shy about supporting these important endeavors.

The Graduate School continues to grow. We graduated 107 Master’s degree candidates, our largest class ever. We are proud to now have over 1100 Schechter Institute graduates, also a milestone, who are serving the Jewish people and communities in a variety of roles and capacities, dedicated to educating our next generation.

Speaking of next generations, TALI continued to evolve. Working with the Ministry of Education on its new Tarbut Yisrael (Jewish Culture) program, we successfully helped to create curricula and textbooks now being used by tens of thousands of students in the 6th-8th grades in the secular school system. Reflecting the changes and advancements likely to be caused by this new endeavor, TALI has embarked on a major strategic rethinking of its mission. We expect it to be completed next year.

The Schechter Rabbinical Seminary began implementing its strategic plan this year with its first class of Mishlei students. These men and women will do their first two years of study in SRS and then decide whether to proceed on for ordination. Ten students were enrolled in this program which is about double the previous years’ typical enrolment.

With the implementation of the strategic plan for TALI, the continued implementation of the strategic plan of the Rabbinical School, and the opening of the new buildings, the coming year promises to be exciting. I hope you will share it with us in person; in the meantime, enjoy the remainder of this book to see what your support has helped us to accomplish.

I wish all of you a new year of peace and prosperity.

Saul I. Sanders
Chairman of the Board
The Schechter Institutes, Inc.
Bringing the Jewish People Together


Eleven Jewish activists who come from diverse cultural backgrounds with varying degrees of religious observance and Jewish knowledge. What unites them is their passionate commitment to the State of Israel and Jewish Peoplehood.

Although they have never sat down together in the same room, they do share a common experience: Schechter Education. By embracing Jewish learning that is inclusive and pluralistic, they join the over 42,000 Jews in Israel and eastern Europe who now live richer Jewish lives because of The Schechter Institutes.

Through the work of thousands of Schechter students and graduates, like the eleven featured in this report, Schechter is Bringing the Jewish People Together. That is our mandate and we thank you for believing in what we do.

Schechter Institute of Jewish Studies ◇ Schechter Rabbinical Seminary ◇ TALI Education Fund ◇ Midreshet Yerushlayim
The Graduate School

Chair, Board of Trustees Saul Sanders | President Professor David Golinkin
Chair, Executive Committee Colette Avital | Dean Prof. Renée Levine Melammed
Vice President for Finance and Administration Liat Citron
Vice President for Development Eitan Cooper

Numbers 2010-11

- 613 students
- 65 faculty members
- 14 interdisciplinary M.A. tracks of Jewish Studies
- 107 graduates in 2011; 1102 total since 1990
- 7 books published
- 12 conferences sponsored or co-sponsored

Academic News

Largest Jewish Studies Program Schechter attracts more students to its M.A. degree program in Jewish Studies than any other institution in Israel. The program is respected nationwide, with students coming from over 150 Israeli cities and towns.

New Specialization in Health-Care Chaplaincy

In 2011-12, Schechter will offer a program combining certification in CPE (Clinical Pastoral Education) with an M.A. degree from the Family and Community Studies track. Developed by Dr. Einat Ramon, this program is the first of its kind in Israel to offer CPE certification with an advanced academic degree. The program's objective is to further develop the nascent field of pastoral care and hospital chaplaincy in Israel.

Commencement Exercises 2011 - Largest ever

M.A. degrees were conferred on 107 graduates in Jerusalem on May 24, 2011, the largest graduating class in Schechter history. Other milestones include the first awarding of the Dean’s Prize for Outstanding Seminar Papers and first-time recognition of Summa Cum Laude Graduates.

Handmade Midrash staged an impressive art exhibit at Schechter in January 2011. Eight students, together with their mentor and teacher, Dr. Jo Milgrom, studied and created works that visually depicted their personal dialogue with Biblical sources.

The 14th Marc and Henia z”l Liebhaber Prize for Religious Tolerance in Israel was awarded to celebrated Israeli entertainer Yehoram Gaon and to Rabbi Prof. Naftali Rothenberg, senior fellow at the Van Leer Institute, for their contribution to bringing Israelis together through music and dialogue. Rabbi Liebhaber sponsored full page ads, signed by the Liebhaber laureates that appealed to Israelis to practice religious tolerance.

Scholarship News

William Davidson Scholarships were awarded to all first-year students. The Judge Simon Rifkind and Harry Meresman Scholarships for Outstanding Scholarship and Commitment to Jewish Pluralism, now in its 7th year, were awarded to 13 exceptional students; the Prof. Alice Shalvi Scholarships for Outstanding Students in Gender and Judaism and the Arts were awarded to two worthy students and the Grinspoon Scholarships for M.A. Students in the TALI Leadership Program were awarded to eight outstanding TALI school teachers. Scholarships for teachers in Development Towns and underprivileged neighborhoods were awarded to 38 students. The first Iranian American Jewish Federation Scholarship Award was given to an exceptional student studying in the M.A. track devoted to Sephardic Studies and Jews of Islamic Countries.

Library Acquisitions From the libraries of Prof. Moshe Greenberg 2”l, 1000 books, donated by his wife, Hava; Dr. Ora Lifshitz, 20,000 volumes on the Bible and the Ancient Near East with computerized index of 142,000 entries; Prof. Yosef Salmon, 1000 books; Shlomo Barer 2”l, 1000 books, donated by his daughter, Naomi Keren, a Schechter M.A. student; journal collection from Camp Ramah library.

Alumni News

Shirat Haruach - the first alumni Shabbat retreat took place in January 2011 in Ashkelon with support from the Goldstein-Golinkin Lecture Fund; Two issues of the Alumni newsletter B’kesher ‘Schechter, were published this year.

Faculty News

Kekst Faculty Fellowship The new Kekst Fellow for 2011-13 is Prof. Renée Levine Melammed, Dean and Associate Prof. of Jewish History, Academic Editor of Nashim, and a leading scholar in the history of Sephardic Jewry and Jewish women’ studies.

Promotions Prof. Moshe Benovitz, promoted to Full Professor in Talmud; Dr. Doron Bar, appointed Senior Lecturer in Land of Israel Studies; Dr. David Frankel, promoted to Senior Lecturer in Bible.

Faculty Feted

Prof. Renée Levine Melammed received a grant from the prestigious Israel Science Foundation for research on ‘Jewish Women in Mediterranean Society;’ Prof. Shamma Friedman received the Mifal Hapayis Foundation’s Landau Prize for Science and Research in the field of talmud and rabbinic literature; Prof. Guy Miron’s The Encyclopedia of the Ghettos, which he edited for Yad Vashem, was a finalist for the 2010 National Jewish Book Awards and a Booklist Editors’ Choice for Reference Sources.

Looking Ahead

The first international conference on Judaism in Evolutionary Perspective, will be hosted by Schechter on November 17, 2011. Organized by Dr. Paul Shrell-Fox, the conference will showcase top scholars in the field, including Prof. Mel Konner (Medicine and Anthropology), Emory University, and Prof. Ada Lampert (Evolutionary Psychology), Ruppin Institute.
A Ministry of Education sponsored Certification Course in “Jewish Culture and Tradition” will bring teachers to Schechter and prepare them to teach the new Tarbut Yisrael public school curriculum. The course will be conducted jointly with the TALI Educational Leadership Program, and teachers who enroll in the program can opt to continue on to complete the Schechter M.A. degree. Tarbut Yisrael is a nationwide program to instill Jewish and Zionist values into Israel’s secular public school system. The Ministry of Education has turned to Schechter and the TALI Education Fund for teacher training and textbook production. (See page 14.)

The Center for Jewish Peoplehood Education (CJPE), founded by a group of four veteran Jewish-Zionist educators, including TALI board member Varda Rafaeli, has been relocated to the Schechter Institute. The Center’s objective is to serve as a catalyst for research, resource development and practical programming in the field. The Center is exploring the establishment of an academic track in Peoplehood Education and professional training programs for Jewish educators in Israel and abroad.

Research Institutes

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 has received overwhelmingly positive feedback from educators and students around the world.

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 The Status of Women in Jewish Law; 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.

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. It has to date published 25 volumes of scholarly research.

Ruth Drori Binder, 49, Coordinator for TALI co-existence program, Dialogue and Identity

Ruth Drori Binder has spent the vast majority of her life in Israel's north. She grew up on Israel's northern border Kibbutz Dan where "I lived most of my childhood in the bomb shelter." Ruth was raised on the ideologies of HaShomer Hatzair (the Young Guard Movement) of Israel's far left that clearly left no room for religion. She today lives in the rural village of Alon Hagalil with her husband and three children.

As a young adult, Ruth identified with radical socialism. She studied philosophy and history at Oranim, a college near Haifa. It was also at Oranim that Ruth met three lecturers – the first graduates of Schechter’s M.A. program in Jewish Studies – who had just established Hamidrasha: Educational Center for the Renewal of Jewish Life in Israel. “For me, Judaism had always been a luxury that we could return to, AFTER we fed the hungry. At Hamidrasha, I saw that Judaism can also deal with a just society. The ‘great divide’ between socialism and Judaism is artificial. Jewish culture and Israeli culture are bound to come together," Ruth explains.

Armed with a new ideology, Ruth helped found Nigun Halev (Melody of the Heart), a Jewish secular community that meets in the Jezreel Valley’s Moshav Nahalal, long synonymous with secular Israel. Today the moshav draws between 100-130 fellow members every Friday for Kabalat Shabbat.

Ruth, a graduate of the Schechter M.A. program (Class of 2011), shares her "Schechter knowledge" generously. Most recently, with the help of Schechter lecturer, Dr. George Savran, she wrote a 10-part course on The Song of Songs, which she taught to fellow members of Nigun Halev.

"At Schechter, what started as a ‘time-out’ for my own personal growth, evolved into the ideal situation of ‘helping others,’” muses Ruth. “This only reaffirms for me the crucial interface that needs to exist between Judaism, our personal lives and Israeli society at large.”

Ruth is today regional director of Dialogue and Identity, a TALI program founded five years ago to encourage religious self awareness as well as mutual respect between TALI school children and their Arab counterparts in the north. She also sends her two youngest children to the nearby TALI school in Givat Ela.

"Bezalel offered no Jewish study, and in yeshiva, Jewish art was taboo. Schechter placed me squarely on the seam between these two worlds.”

Dov Abramson, 36, artist and graphic designer
Dov Abramson, a Jerusalem artist, has taken on the tensions inherent in religious life and brought them center stage. Born in the U.S., he moved with his modern Orthodox family (his father is a Yeshiva University-ordained rabbi) to Israel when he was 8-years old. His pre-occupation with the boundaries of Kodesh V’Hol (the sacred and the profane) is evident in his art. Dov has exhibited both in Israel and in the U.S. including the Israel Museum in Jerusalem and the Jewish Museum in New York.

“I grew up in an environment which was ‘theoretically liberal’-meaning, that you can ask questions, but the bottom line is that observance of Halakha is not on the negotiating table,” explains Dov. He graduated from a well-respected Jerusalem yeshiva but veered off the conventional path by entering the army in a non-religious framework. He went on to study art at Jerusalem’s Bezalel Academy where his final project was re-designing a page of Talmud.

“We are a text-driven nation, in love with our texts. What I do is re-think the visual dimension so it too can have a voice in a modern Jewish cultural exchange,” says Dov.

“My first paying job was for the TALI Education Fund, designing the Weekly Torah portion pages and then contributing content as well.” Working for TALI for 10 years, Dov became familiar with Schechter’s degree program. Last year, he found time to enroll in its Judaism and the Arts M.A. track. “From the first moment, Schechter was exactly what I was looking for…the bridge between my yeshiva studies and Bezalel.”

Dov lives and breathes religious pluralism, using his art to force dialogue on the most salient issues confronting Israeli society today. His clients range from a Reform synagogue in Tel Aviv to an Orthodox yeshiva in the Etzion bloc.

“In pieces like Do We Have a Minyan?, I put the cards on the table. I am saying to the viewer, ‘we have a problem, now, you come and deal with it.’”

Levana Milon is a 4th generation Jerusalemite. Her father served in Israel’s pre-state army – the Haganah – fighting for the Jewish state’s independence, and later, helping to build modern day Jerusalem. Her grandfather has a public square named for him in the same neighborhood where she is now school principal. She is passionately loyal to the city and tied to it in a very personal way. Yet she is frightened by the capital’s changing demography as she watches its young and educated secular population leave the city, while the numbers of ultra-Orthodox increase yearly.

Levana received her degree in teaching mathematics from the Hebrew University. She and three colleagues founded a school in the northern Jerusalem suburb of Pisgat Zeev which stressed a strong program of math to woo the local population, many of whom were Russian immigrants. The school’s program was well received, but it was clear that this same population had very weak ties to the Jewish state and to their Jewish identity. The principal turned to the TALI Education Fund to enrich the school with Jewish study. A number of teachers enrolled in the TALI Educational Leadership program (see page 15), including Levana who then opted to continue for her M.A. in Jewish Studies.

“I came to Schechter ignorant and angry. I had many questions about Judaism, but no answers. Schechter taught me the critical approach to learning, where all questions are valid. This is the lesson plan I bring into my school,” explains Levana.

Last year Levana was asked to take on the biggest challenge of her teaching career: to head up the last secular school in Jerusalem’s Ramot neighborhood - a school with a dwindling population, whose socio-economic background is weak. She has introduced some TALI curriculum with an emphasis on values education and has made a strong connection with the neighborhood Masorti synagogue that included a Purim Megillah reading for the entire school community and a Siddur ceremony for 1st graders. She is committed to continuing the school’s open dialogue with Judaism, promising she will give to her pupils “what I never received at home.”

The good news? Enrollment in the Mofet Ramot Alon School is up significantly for 2011-12.
Bringing the Jewish People Together

November, 2010

With the participation of Chancellor Arnold Eisen, in Century
Israel-Diaspora Relations Today & Training Rabbis in the 21st
Annual Rabbi David Aronson Memorial Symposium, two sessions,

Shahar Orion, architect, Schechter, December 2010

by Prof. Hananel Mack, Bar Ilan University, at the Schechter
Book launching,

in Jewish Education, Bar Ilan University, December 2010

Sixth International Conference of the Israel Society for Research
Judaism and Christianity in Past and Present, co-sponsored by
Bar Ilan University, Tilburg University and Protestant Theological
University, The Netherlands, January 2011. The proceedings will
be published by E.J. Brill in Leiden.

The Relationship between Torah and Philosophy according to
Shmuel David Luzzato

(italian 19th century Bible Commentator and linguist), Dr. Effi Hamiel, January 2011
Sixth International Conference of the Israel Society for Research
in Jewish Education, Bar Ilan University, December 2010

Book launching, From the Secret of Moshe Hadarshan,
by Prof. Hananel Mack, Bar Ilan University, at the Schechter
Institute, December 2010

Sanctified Space at the Gur Hasidim Village in Hatzor Haglilit,
Shahar Orion, architect, Schechter, December 2010

Annual Rabbi David Aronson Memorial Symposium, two sessions,
Israel-Diaspora Relations Today & Training Rabbis in the 21st
Century, with the participation of Chancellor Arnold Eisen, in
conjunction with the 23rd Schechter Rabbinical Ordination,
November, 2010

Women in Israeli Cinema, Sixth Annual Academic Conference on
the Status of Women in Israeli Society, November 2010

Academic Conference on The Student Struggle Against the
Holocaust, by Dr. Rafael Medoff and Prof. David Golinkin, UTS and JTS in New York, November 2010; Jerusalem Book Launching, December 2010

Yitzhak Rabin Memorial Ceremony, organized by TALI
Educational Leadership and Mishler students, November 2010
Evening of Study in Memory of Prof. Jacob Milgrom z”l, October 2010

And Overseas… Schechter faculty spoke at a number of international conferences:

Prof. Renée Levine Melammed, keynote address, An Ode to
Salonika: Historical and Poetic Perspectives, European Association
of Biblical Studies Annual Meeting, Thessaloniki, Greece, August
2011 and Reassessing Jewish Women’s Lives in Medieval Iberia,
Annual Conference of the Association for Jewish Studies, Boston,
December 2010

Dr. Doron Bar, Re-interment of Notables, Zionist Leaders and
Martyrs in the State of Israel, 1917-1977, 27th Annual Meeting of
the Association for Israeli Studies, Brandeis University, June
2011

Dr. Paul Mandel, Apocalypse and Scribe: Enoch , Baruch and
Ezra and the Second-Temple “Scribal” Tradition, Sixth Enoch
Seminar, Milan, Italy, June 2011

Prof. Guy Miron, Between Minority and Majority: Hungarian
and Jewish/Israeli Ethical and Cultural Experiences in Recent
History, Budapest, Hungary, May 2011

Dr. Tamar Kadari, The Three Matriarchs, Jewish Women
and Ancient Times, Shabbaton Bereshit, Sinaia, Rumania, April 2011

Dr. Paul Shrell-Fox, Judaism: A Biological-Psychological
Understanding, Teaching Religion Conference, Augustana College,
Rock Island, IL, April 2011

Rabbi Diana Villa, Interfaith workshop with Muslim and Christian
Palestinian Clergy, Antalya, Turkey, January 2011 and Limmud
England, From Regina Jonas, the First Woman Rabbi to Women
Rabbis Writing Responsa Today, December 2010

The Goldstein-Golinkin Adult Education Program continues to
bring Torah L’shma to Masorti communities throughout Israel. This
year scholarship focused on the Alumni Shabbat study weekend in
Ashkelon, Shirat Har Lawson, with scholars-in-residence, Prof. Avigdor
Shinan, Andre Haidu and Shmuel Glick, January 2011; Prof. David
Golinkin, Kehilat Ya’ar Ramot, Jerusalem, Student Struggles in the
U.S. to Save European Jewry from the Holocaust, May 2011; Dr. Paul Mandel,
Kehilat Moriah, Haifa, Loosing the Middle Ground: Different Perspectives from Rabbinic Literature on the Destruction of the Temple, July 2011

Chinese Educators Visit Schechter A group of 17 Chinese
educators from the Chinese Society of Education visited the Schechter
Institute. The visit was facilitated by Dr. Shula Laderman, lecturer in Schechter’s Judaism and the Arts program. Dr. Laderman spoke
to the group on Jewish Education of the Young as Reflected in
Illustrated Manuscripts of the Middle Ages, followed by a “hands-
on” presentation by Prof. David Golinkin on the meaning and
purpose of Judaism’s basic ritual objects. An expanded exchange
to include short-term Schechter study programs on Judaism and the
Jewish People will be explored.

Bat Mitzvah for National Women’s Study Day Celebrating
its 12th anniversary in Jerusalem, this year’s National Women’s
League Study Day on Circles, Cycles and Change: Jewish Women
Leading the Way, was taught in four languages to over 400
women, many of them new immigrants. Sponsored by Women’s
League for Conservative Judaism in cooperation with the Schechter
Institute, Masorti Movement, Jewish Federation of Chicago and the
Dorot Foundation, and organized by Diane Friedgut, the study
also takes place each February, drawing hundreds of women to
three locations.

The Midrash Project Schechter is publishing a series of critical,
user-friendly editions of midrashim which have never
appeared in a modern format. Each midrash will include the text
utilizing the best manuscript, selected variant readings, mesoret
hamidrash referring to all rabbinic parallels and a commentary.
The 4-Volume Legends of the Jews and Midrash Shmuel
have appeared, with Esther Rabbah to appear in winter 2011.
New Books 2010-11

Published by the Schechter Institute


Kuntress Ha-Teshuvot He-hadash: A Bibliographic Thesaurus of Responsa Literature published from ca. 1470-2000, Vol. 4, by Shmuel Glick, Jerusalem and Ramat Gan: co-published by Schechter and the Schocken Institute, 2010 (Hebrew with English summaries)

Ask the Rabbis, Monique Susskind Goldberg and Diana Villa, eds. David Golinkin and Yisrael Warman, Jerusalem: Schechter Institute, 2010

The Student Struggle Against the Holocaust, by Rafael Medoff and David Golinkin, Jerusalem and New York: co-published by Schechter, JTS, the Wyman Institute and Targum Shlishi, 2010

Responsa in a Moment, Volume 2, David Golinkin, Jerusalem: Schechter Institute, 2011

NASHIM, A Journal of Jewish Women’s Studies and Gender Issues, academic editor, Prof. Renée Levine Melammed, managing editor, Deborah Greniman, a joint publication of the Schechter Institute, Hadassah-Brandeis Institute and Indiana University Press: No. 20, Jewish Women and Philanthropy, consulting editor, Brenda E. Brasher, Fall 2010; No. 21, Women in the Responsa Literature, consulting editor: David Golinkin, Spring 2011

Esther Rabbah, eds., Yosef Tabori and Arnon Atzmon, Jerusalem: Schechter Institute, forthcoming, Winter 2011 (Hebrew)


Published by Schechter Faculty

From Sea to Sea: a Trek in Israel – from the Mediterranean to the Sea of Galilee, Doron Bar, editor, Jerusalem: Yad Ben Zvi, 2010 (Hebrew)

The Land of Canaan and the Destiny of Israel: Theologies of Territory in the Hebrew Bible, David Frankel, Winona Lake, IN: Eisenbrauns, 2011

The Waning of Emancipation: Jewish History, Memory and the Rise of Fascism in Germany, France and Hungary, Guy Miron, Jerusalem: Zalman Shazar Center, (Hebrew and English) 2011


“He Came upon the Place”: Biblical Theophany Narratives, George Savran, Helal Ben Haim Library, HaKibbutz Hameuchad, 2010 (Hebrew)

Books to be Published in 2012

The Status of Women in Jewish Law: Responsa (English version) David Golinkin • The Hebrew Writings of Prof. A. J. Heschel, edited by Dror Bondi, co-published with Beit Morasha and Zmora-Bitan-Dvir • As a Driven Leaf, Hebrew edition, co-published with Zmora-Bitan-Dvir
Schechter Rabbinical Seminary

Chair, Board of Trustees Rabbi Professor Hanan Alexander
Chair, Executive Committee Ilana Laderman Mushkin
Dean Rabbi Moshe Silberschein

Academic News

**Mishlei – Bet Midrash Program Enters 2nd Year**
Ten students completed their first year in Schechter’s new program - *Mishlei* - an innovative two-stage track of study designed to expand the student body and broaden the pool of potential students for the rabbinical program. This new framework offers students a two-year program which meets two full days a week and combines study of Jewish sources in the Bet Midrash with academic courses leading to an M.A. in Jewish Studies from the Schechter Institute. The second stage of the program will offer outstanding students who are accepted by the Admissions Committee an additional two years of full-time study culminating in rabbinic ordination. Full scholarships and stipends will be available to those students who qualify for this second phase of study. For 2011-12: A successful recruitment program was undertaken by Schechter in partnership with the Masorti Movement, and an impressive group of 10 new students have been accepted for study in the fall of 2011. *Mishlei’s* 2011-12 curriculum will offer a variety of Jewish studies courses and focus on Jewish social activism.

**The Diversity of Mishlei**
*Mishlei’s* first group of students reflects the spectrum of religious diversity in Israel. The ten students come from secular, Masorti (Conservative) and Orthodox backgrounds, and half of the students are currently active in Masorti congregations, including a congregational president, a program coordinator, a volunteer cantor and a bar/bat mitzvah coordinator. They also have a variety of professional backgrounds, including the natural sciences, teaching, social work, drama, guiding, writing and editing.

**Ordination 2012**
Two rabbis are slated to receive ordination in January 2012 in Jerusalem. Yerusha Avraham is a veteran school teacher whose dream is to build a Masorti community in her hometown of Dimona. Reuven Stamov will become the first Masorti rabbi in the former Soviet Union, when he is officially installed as rabbi of the Masorti Kehilah in Kiev in summer 2012. (For Kiev installation, see page 19.) Reuven traveled to Ukraine in 2010-11 for educational work during the High Holidays, Chanukah and the annual Camp Ramah-Ukraine summer camps.

**Overseas Program Strengthens the Israeli Connection**
23 JTS students and a student from the Seminario Rabinico in Buenos Aires spent the year at Schechter. Program feedback was extremely positive. 2011-2012: Next year’s program will offer joint courses with JTS students and Israeli Mishlei students, including the highly popular *Jerusalem of the Three Montheistic Faiths*, taught for the first time this year by Dr. Doron Bar and a new 8-part course developed by The Center for Jewish Peoplehood Education. JTS students will study elective courses in the Schechter graduate school.

**Chair Honored at RA Convention**
Rabbi Prof. Hanan Alexander was honored by the Joint RA Campaign for the contributions he has made to Jewish scholarship and to furthering Jewish education in Israel and North America at the Rabbinical Assembly Convention in Las Vegas in March 2011.

**Initiatives 2010-11**

**Schechter-Masorti-Legacy Partner for Kehilah Growth**
Two new Masorti kehillot took off this past year in Holon and Petach Tikvah under the able direction of Legacy Rabbinic Fellows Rabbi Liron Levy and Rabbi Michal Schwartz, the first Legacy Heritage Rabbinic Fellows to take up 3-year positions following their graduation from Schechter. Though representing different models of community organization, both initiatives reflect grass roots interest in Masorti Judaism. In Holon, Rabbi Liron, in partnership with the Holon Community Center, has nurtured a group of over thirty participants, mostly young families who gather Friday afternoons for a Kabbalat Shabbat service at the center. For holiday programming, as many as 200 have participated. In Petach Tikvah, Rabbi Michal, who is a resident of the city, answered the call from a group of active lay people who were interested in forming a Masorti Kehilah. Starting in January 2011, the Masorti Kehilah in Petach Tikvah has a core group of 20 members who are reaching out to the community. The Purim reading of Megillat Esther drew 200 people, and similar numbers are expected to attend High Holiday services. (See profile page 12.)

**Chaplaincy Program**
Five years ago, Schechter pioneered the first accredited chaplaincy program in Israel with Cecil Aseff, the National Association of Jewish Chaplains, and Rabbi Zahara Davidovich-Farkash, Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital. The program is part of a large-scale effort spearheaded by the UJA Federation of New York, to develop health-care chaplaincy in Israel. To date, Schechter has conferred 19 certificates in Clinical Pastoral Education. Students attend an intensive two-year summer chaplaincy program which combines fieldwork with classroom lectures by Schechter faculty and guest lecturers. Students perform summer field work at the Asaf Harofe Hospital Oncology and Dialysis Departments near Rishon Lezion, at the Idan HaZahav senior citizens home in Jerusalem, and in the home hospice unit of Kupat Holim Leumit. Rabbi Michal Schwartz, a graduate of the CPE program, worked on a weekly basis with oncology patients at Asaf Harofe Hospital throughout the year.

**Podcast Jewish Learning a Success**
In a new initiative by the Rabbinical Assembly, Schechter provided three Rosh Hodesh “Podcasts” (audio broadcasts) to RA members around the world. Schechter faculty members Rabbi Diana Villa, Dr. Doron Bar and Rabbi Moshe Silberschein joined colleagues from JTS and the Ziegler Rabbinical School in providing the monthly material. The program will be continued in 2011-12 based on the positive response from participants.
**Toward 2011-2012**

Schechter has taken a leading role in the Israeli Network of Spiritual Care providers, an umbrella organization engaged in pioneering the field of Jewish Spiritual Care in Israel, the goal of which is to receive professional recognition by the Ministry of Health. **Dr. Einat Ramon** formulated criteria of professional standards for the training of chaplains in Israel on behalf of the Israeli network and the National Association of Jewish Chaplains.

A new program for CPE certification combined with an M.A. degree from the Schechter Institute’s Family and Community Studies track has been developed with funding by the **UJA Federation of New York**. 6-8 students will be accepted to the joint program in 2011-12.

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**81 Schechter-Ordained Rabbis**

*Strengthening Jewish Community Life Since 1988*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Israel</th>
<th>Congregational Rabbis</th>
<th>21</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>TALI–School Rabbis/Pedagogic Staff</td>
<td>16</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hospital Chaplains</td>
<td>5</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Schechter Faculty</td>
<td>8</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Midreshet Yerushalayim Lecturers</td>
<td>5</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Schechter Researchers</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HUC Faculty</td>
<td>4</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jewish Organizations</td>
<td>13</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Retired or Working in Another field</td>
<td>6</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| Europe | Congregations in France, Italy, Belgium, Germany and England | 9 |
| Asia | Congregations in China and Australia | 2 |
| Americas | Congregations and Day Schools, 6 in North America, 1 in Brazil | 7 |

* Some rabbis work in more than one position

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**On Line Ta Shma Project for RA World**  
A four-session Webinar on the High Holidays, organized by the **Latin American Region of the RA** and taught by Prof. **David Golinkin**, was picked up around the world by many RA members. The learning, which took place in July and August 2011 was the initiative of **Rabbis Pablo Berman** and **Marcelo Polakoff**, both of whom studied in SRS as part of their rabbinical training at the Seminario in Buenos Aires.

**On behalf of the Latin American RA, I congratulate everybody for the Online Ta Shma project that we have developed together. It’s a real honor for our region to work with the staff of Schechter, an institution that for most of us is a synonym for the highest Jewish academic level, and for home. Kol tuv!**

Rabbi Marcelo Polakoff, Cordoba, Argentina

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1. Mishle’i students (left) Michaela Kelly and Liat Steinfeld  
2. Chagit Dotan and Amie Ben-Dor receive CPE (Clinical Pastoral Education) certification  
3. “The Dean Triumvirate” Purim Shpiel, from left: Rabbis Tamar Elad-Appelbaum, Moshe Silberschein and Shlomo Tucker  
4. Rabbi Liron Levy with Bet Midrash participants from Masorti Kehilat Neot Shachanim-Holon  
5. Mishle’i student Ruti Ben Hamo  
6. Schechter ordination guests of honor, from left: Prof. Hanan Alexander, Prof. Arnold Eisen and Prof. David Golinkin  
7. JTS overseas student Ariel Russo Beinart  
8. Our new rabbis, from left: David Touboul, Liron Levy and Michael Even-David  
9. Shaharit morning Torah reading at Schechter  
10. Rabbi Israel Warman with students
Answering a Grass Roots Demand for Judaism

Rabbis Michal Schwartz, 40, and Liron Levy, 30, represent a new breed of “congregational rabbi,” uniquely Israeli and very much in step with the rhythms of Israeli life. Shattering stereotypes, they are non-Orthodox, they are women, and they are committed to bringing a “Jewish Renaissance” to the average Israeli household.

Both recent Schechter rabbinical graduates and today Legacy Heritage fellows, these rabbis have formed new Masorti kehillot this year in Petach Tikvah and Holon. Their work is empowering growing numbers of secular Israelis to organize pro-actively to create an indigenous brand of Masorti Judaism that speaks to their needs.

Rabbi Michal Schwartz

Michal Schwartz opened the Masorti Kehilat-Petach Tikvah together with the Masorti Movement in a small community center in January 2011, after a large group of 130 people, organized by community leader Yoav Bar Gil, turned up for High Holiday services in September 2010. Today, a group meets weekly for Kabbalat Shabbat services and once a month for Shabbat morning prayers. The reading of Megillat Esther on Purim attracted 200 participants and before that, a Seder Tu B’Shvat attracted over 50 parents and children.

Coming from the same generation as her congregants, Rabbi Michal understands their dilemma: “They are 30 to 50-year-old secular Israelis who are middle-class and educated. Many are employed in demanding high-tech jobs. Juggling between paying the mortgage, raising their kids and advancing professionally, the vast majority have little or no time left for soul-searching,” she explains. But she senses that many of them feel they are missing something. “Our parents’ generation formed close-knit communities through friendships. The modern world’s fast pace and tight schedules prevents people from bonding like they used to do,” she says.

Michal looked at this first year as a “reality-check.” “We needed to survey our community and see what ‘spoke to them’; what they were looking for most.” Michal, who lives in Petach Tikvah with her husband and four children, plans to enlarge the scope of her work next year. “I want Kehilat Petach Tikvah to provide the Jewish answer for the non-Orthodox in Petach Tikvah.”

“‘My community is not looking for the radical ‘other,’ but rather a genuine traditional (Masorti) approach to Judaism, that takes our modern lives into consideration.”

Rabbi Liron Levy

“Our Kehilah will be the address for the Israeli-Jewish experience, a place that everyone knows not only exists, but exists for them! I am optimistic - Israel is a country born out of a dream.”
An amazing opportunity came our way a year and a half ago,” remembers Liron Levy, as she recounts the founding of the Masorti Kehilat Neot Shoshanim-Holon. “The local community center decided they wanted to offer Jewish programming. After a few “pilot” Kabbalat Shabbat programs for parents and children, they were sold on Masorti Judaism. They knew their audience was ideologically compatible with a more traditional approach to Judaism; a Judaism that would remind residents of their grandparents’ homes, yet be creative, modern and responsive to their lives,” explains Liron.

Rabbi Liron opened a successful morning Bet Midrash (study hall) for neighborhood women that met twice a month. She conducted a monthly Kabbalat Shabbat service for parents and children, based on a siddur she wrote and edited. “Hands-on” projects focusing on the holidays took place regularly in the community center foyer. A Megillah reading for Purim drew over 100 participants.

“People are looking for a way to get close to Jewish life, but they are afraid, even intimidated by the Orthodox synagogue. With us, they are finding authentic Judaism, but a place that is ‘user-friendly; willing to give them their rightful place in the synagogue.”

Currently living in Jerusalem, the Elat-born rabbi will be moving to Holon. First priority: building a cadre of lay people to move the kehilah agenda forward.

“My dream is to turn our kehilah into a real home, where prayer takes place alongside all the rituals associated with the life cycle,” says Liron.

JTS Chavruta Partners Become “Life Partners”

Hillary Blank and Daniel Chorny, both JTS rabbincial students, did not start off their year at Schechter “on a marriage track,” as Daniel recalls. But as the year progressed, it became harder and harder for Daniel to imagine his life without Hillary. March 29, 2011 was a memorable one at the Schechter Bet Midrash. On that day, Daniel got down on his knee and proposed to Hillary. “I had this moment of inspiration and clarity. Where could I find a more fitting place to solidify my life than in the Bet Midrash where God and life’s forces meet?” he asks with a twinkle in his eye. Hillary accepted…and the rest is history.

Hillary, from San Diego, CA, found Judaism through song. Her first jobs were tutoring Bar-Bat Mitzvah children while still in high school. From there, she started teaching Hebrew and Jewish history at local Sunday schools. “I would wake up 5:30 Sunday mornings, knowing it was worth it. I never had a bad day.” She enrolled in JTS’s Cantorial School in 2008. The program took her to Israel, where she met Daniel who was studying at the Conservative Yeshiva.

Daniel spent his childhood in Bogota, Colombia, where his Columbian-born father, Rabbi Ammos Chorny, a JTS graduate, and his mother, were born and raised. Daniel enrolled in the JTS rabbincial program in 2009. Hillary was impressed with what Daniel was learning and decided to augment her cantorial studies with rabbincial studies.

For Hillary, the year at Schecter was “the best exposure to a Hebrew education that a liberal Jew could get anywhere in the universe!” Both she and Daniel immersed themselves in the language, which afforded them the opportunity to take courses from Schechter’s M.A. program for Israelis. “We jumped in head-first—totally fearless,” says Hillary. “Schechter has so many amazing academic offerings,” adds Daniel. Always aiming for the highest level, he was privileged to learn with Prof. Shamma Friedman, who according to Daniel, “reads Talmud in three dimensions.”

Not to be forgotten, the most important detail of this story: Daniel and Hillary are to be wed in San Diego, the 13th of Tevet, January 8, 2012.

"The year at Schechter was the best exposure to a Hebrew education that a liberal Jew could get anywhere in the universe!" - Hillary Blank
TALI Education Fund

Chair, Board of Directors and Executive Committee  Brig. Gen. (Res.) Ram Shmueli
The Susan and Scott Shay TALI Director General  Rabbi Dr. Eitan Chikli

TALI Tops 10%:  TALI schools comprise over 10% of all elementary schools in the secular public school system. In September 2011, 7 additional schools and 17 pre-schools joined the TALI Network.

Initiatives 2010-11

TALI Choir Competition: Sweet Music To Our Ears  The TALI Education Fund held two regional competitions for 16 TALI school choirs throughout the country where over 500 children performed. The two regional winners, who received prize money earmarked for school enrichment programs, traveled to Jerusalem to perform at the Genger Prize Ceremony. The competitions, organized by TALI Music Director Bat Ella Birnbaum, were a huge success, both in the quality of the performances and in the team spirit the event nurtured.

TALI Partners with Leket (Table to Table)  Eleven TALI schools participated in a pilot program with the Leket organization to introduce pupils and parents to the Jewish value of Tzedaka by learning sources on the mitzvot of Leket and Peah (gleaning and leaving a corner of the fields for the poor) and discussing issues of hunger and poverty. Children then went out to pick unharvested crops which were distributed to the poor. A teacher handbook augmented the learning. In 2012, the program will be expanded.

TALI Bar-Bat Mitzvah Seminars Return to Kibbutz Hanaton  Over 600 sixth graders from ten TALI schools travelled north to Kibbutz Hanaton where Schechter graduate Rabbi Yoav Ende and his facilitators have revived the Bar-Bat Mitzvah Seminar program. The Jewish identity program incorporates Jewish history, literature, symbols and values.

“Total TALI” for Sifryat Pijama Project  All TALI pre-schools, numbering more than 2000 families, participated in the Sifryat Pijama Project which strengthens love for books among young children and encourages Jewish parenting. The project distributed nine books to all TALI families plus a copy which remained in the pre-school library.

Sefer Torah Donated to TALI Givat Zeev  Hundreds of Givat Zeev residents (a town outside of Jerusalem) celebrated a new Sefer Torah donated to the TALI school in January. Schechter Board members Buddy and Fran Brandt, who have facilitated donations of Torah scrolls to four TALI schools, brought the scroll from the U.S. and presented it to the school.

TALI Working Closely with Ministry of Education

This year Israel’s Ministry of Education introduced a new curriculum - Tarbut Yisrael (Jewish Culture), which calls for two hours a week of Jewish studies in grades 6-8. The program will eventually be expanded to include grades 4-9. Because of TALI’s unrivaled expertise and experience in the field of Jewish education in secular schools, the Ministry of Education turned to TALI for assistance in the program’s development. The TALI Education Fund (TEF), viewing this as a crucial opportunity to expose the entire secular school system to TALI’s pluralistic and open approach to Jewish education, responded to the challenge:

TALI published 5 textbooks on Judaism and Zionism for the Ministry of Education for grades 6-8, and is now engaged in a nationwide book marketing campaign to non-TALI schools.

TEF staff led 95 training seminars for some 3,000 non-TALI teachers to instruct them in the use of the new curricular materials based on TALI’s approach and methods. Feedback by teachers and principals was very positive.

Dr. Eitan Chikli, Susan and Scott Shay TALI Director General, proposed to the Ministry a Certification program involving 180 hours of teacher training which will be conducted at 11 academic institutions (including Schechter) around the country. Schechter is well positioned to attract large numbers of teachers because it offers an accredited M.A. degree in addition to the mandated courses for certification.

TALI Textbooks

Every Individual is Unique  A curriculum commissioned by Shalva, an association working with mentally and physically challenged children in Israel, is being produced for both formal and informal educational frameworks.

New Shoah Curriculum  The first half of an educational kit (grades 3-6) for teaching the Holocaust was in the field for Yom Hashoah 2011. The kit forms the basis for a Shoah Resource Center, an interactive museum of 13 “stations” built to encourage discussion on Jewish values and existential questions in the context of the Holocaust. The project will be completed by early 2012.

Organ Transplants Curriculum to Go Online  Giving Wholeheartedly, the organ donations curriculum, published a few years ago for 7-9th graders, is coming out in a revised online version for young adults aged 17-25. The site will provide important information on organ transplants, the different religious approaches to organ donations, dilemmas involved, and educational tools for teaching the subject in frameworks such as youth movements and the army.

Friends Across the Sea: English Edition on the Way  The popular Friends Across the Sea textbook that focuses on Israel-Diaspora relations and Jewish Peoplehood will appear in 2011 in a new and expanded Hebrew edition. An English edition will be available in early 2012 to Jewish communities in North America. Pilot communities are currently being sought for schools that would learn the curriculum and use it as a basis for twinning with Israeli schools. The books include a special Let’s Talk section with questions to spur dialogue between Israeli and non-Israeli students.

Textbook Series Warmly Received in Mexico  The TALI Toldot Jewish History Curriculum for the Magen David Jewish Day School in Mexico City has been completed for the 7th-9th grades. A program on Jewish Identity in Transition is being written for the 10th grade.

Book Sales  Over 20,000 TALI textbooks were sold to TALI and non-TALI schools in Israel and overseas in 2010. Sales are expected to more than double in 2011, due to the Ministry of Education-sponsored Tarbut Israel program being introduced into all public schools.
184 schools and pre-schools, including 2 new schools and 12 pre-school classes
38,000 students
12 TALI School Counselors worked in 60 schools, guiding curriculum development and providing ongoing pedagogical counseling to 1,200 teachers
39 TALI teachers and principals studied one full day per week in the two-year TALI Educational Leadership Program
18 TALI Leadership Program graduates completed their M.A. degree in Jewish studies (education track) at Schechter
14 TALI rabbis and music specialists worked in 52 schools and pre-schools
240 hours of teacher training seminars for TALI teachers from 22 new TALI schools were conducted
95 teacher-room workshops for over 3,000 non-TALI secular public school teachers were held
5 TALI textbooks and Holocaust curriculum kit published

The Devorah and Shraga Genger Prize for Excellence in TALI Education Celebrates a Decade
The Genger Prize, established in 2001 to promote and develop the teaching of Jewish Studies in a pluralistic spirit and to bridge the gap between religious and secular Israelis, has become the most coveted prize amongst TALI educators, serving as a benchmark for measuring TALI excellence in education. On April 4, 2011, the Genger Prize was awarded to Ms. Nurit Eldar, Outstanding Principal and Outstanding Parental Activity, TALI Bet Chinuch High School, Jerusalem; Tsafirim Hadera School, Outstanding TALI School and Educational Initiative: Ms. Revital Zorach, Outstanding TALI Coordinator, Tsafirim Hadera School; Outstanding TALI Pre-School, Hammerman Pre-School, Jerusalem.

TALI Leadership Development Program
The program was established over 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, 189 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. Presently, there are 58 TALI graduates learning at Schechter for an M.A. degree.

Dialogue and Identity Enters 6th Year
The Dialogue and Identity Project completed a 5th year, operating in 12 schools in Israel’s north – 6 TALI schools and 6 Arab-Christian schools. Altogether, 400 children participated in the program which is based on Three Religions in the Holy Land. The program’s key to success lies in its emphasis on teacher training. Serving as a model of cooperation, Israel's Ministry of Education has praised the program and funded a small part of it. Dialogue and Identity was chosen by a Swiss-based organization to participate in a summer workshop in Lausanne/Geneva.

Visual Midrash Collection Grows
Visual Midrash, the Milgrom Art and Jewish Education Interactive Archive is continuing to develop as works are added to the site. The site's rich database on each art image includes referenced biblical sources, artistic medium, date and short description of the work, as well as biographies of the artists. The site's eventual-4,000 artworks will constitute a major resource for Jewish education.

Project Updates 2010-11

Tova Cohen, sitting behind the principal’s desk, ponders her childhood on kibbutz: “I was in love with everything about the kibbutz… except one small thing, the lack of Judaism… and I fixed that,” she says with an impish smile. Tova grew up on Kibbutz Gazit, near Mount Tabor and the Jezreel Valley, an area known for its pioneering communities and ideological Zionist secularism.

Leaving kibbutz life at age 14, Tova moved to Bat Yam, where she was exposed to grandparents who were more traditional Jews. The *Shulhan Aruch* (corpus of Jewish law) was something she studied with her grandfather, a Holocaust survivor. Until today, the book holds a place of honor in her library.

A seasoned educator of 34 years, Tova came to TALI Tsafririm seven years ago, transforming the school into a leading provider of quality Jewish education; one of the best of TALI’s 90. “Education must embody pluralism, democracy and the sense that we are all equal. These ideals, coupled with a rootedness to the land of Israel form my educational creed. For me, TALI education completed the circle and provided me with a blueprint for educating the young of Israel,” explains Tova.

Tova’s educational blueprint clearly was a winner, as her school swept three of the six Genger Prizes in 2011. Tova attributes a great deal of the success to TALI’s Educational Leadership Program, which a high percentage of her teaching staff has completed. (See “The Tsafririm Team,” page 17)

“My two-hour drive [with two other colleagues] to Jerusalem and back was the highlight of our week. What wonderful ideas we cooked up together from the materials, dialogue and discussions that ensued every Wednesday at Schechter,” she remembers.

Revital Zorach, looks back at 1996 as auspicious. It was the year she began teaching at Tsafririm and the year that TALI education was introduced into the school. “Teaching for me is magical. It translates into the love of what I do, the belief in what TALI stands for and the pride we take in our accomplishments,” explains Revital.

“TALI and I ‘grew up’ together at Tsafririm. We both went through a learning process,” she explains. Raised in a religious home, Revital attended state religious school but then left religious life behind. Only after coming into contact with TALI education at Tsafririm, did she realize that there was more than one road to Judaism.

“Everything we learned, we shared with the school community.” This included special ceremonies for the holidays, weekly Torah portion classes, Bar/Bat Mitzvah classes, mini kabbalat-Shabbat programs and more for the school’s 530 children and their parents, the vast majority of whom come from secular or non-observant homes.

“My dream is to see our school evolve into a community Bet Midrash, with a synagogue – that does not frighten away our families, but rather invites them in to create a Jewish gathering place where all are welcome.” - Tova Cohen

“I came back to Judaism in a natural way - the TALI way. When a person finds religion through belief and in love, you see results. I see it on the faces of our children at school.”

Modest in demeanor, Revital gives credit to the students and fellow teachers for allowing her to win the Genger Prize for outstanding TALI coordinator. “As a teacher, I have a mission: connecting our children to their roots and to world culture. TALI not only facilitates my work, but in a real sense, it reflects on the essence of who I am and the values that are important to me: pluralism, tolerance and respect for the ‘other’ in society.”

“At TALI, we make sure that all children visit a synagogue. I’ve heard kids say that this visit was the first time they had ever stepped foot in a synagogue. And I ask myself, ‘how is this possible in a Jewish State?’” - Revital Zorach
The Tsafririm Team: Committed to TALI Educational Leadership

The line-up is impressive: Tova Cohen, principal; Ravit Biton, teacher; Revital Zorach, TALI school coordinator – all three graduates of the TALI Educational Leadership and Schechter M.A. programs, 2010; Yifat Kasher and Keren Drori, 2011 students of the Educational Leadership program; teachers Keren Castro, Lizi Katz, Mina Yaniv and former principal, Yochi Anglister, trailblazers for TALI who were among the first graduates of the Educational Leadership program in 2001-02.

A reunion of sorts took place in June 2011 when Tsafririm’s committed core of TALI teachers - past and present - gathered to catch up on school news and reminisce about years past and the challenges of the future.

Keren Castro, filling in as TALI coordinator this year for Revital who was on sabbatical, feels that the entire school curriculum has evolved into what she termed “a TALI lesson plan,” where the “school corridors live and breathe TALI.” She adds, “There is a ‘TALI corner’ in every classroom and all our teachers are using TALI textbooks.” One of the first teachers to complete the TALI Educational Leadership program in Jerusalem, she still exudes excitement when talking about it: “I was enriched from the soles of my feet up to my head. But a new challenge always awaits you: there is always more to learn!”

Yifat Kasher decided to make the weekly trip to Jerusalem on the recommendation of Revital and Tova. A 2nd grade teacher also in charge of school trips, she incorporates Schechter learning into her lesson plans. Lizi Katz, now retired from teaching, sums up the mood: “The Genger Prize really goes to all of us in the room. We are all links in a chain that has nurtured this spirit of excellence. It is fitting that as Tsafririm celebrates its 60th anniversary, we are also celebrating the Genger Prize.”

“The best part is we are seeing our students bringing their education and TALI experiences into the home. This starts as early as 1st grade,” – Yifat Kasher, 2nd grade teacher
Midreshet Yerushalayim

Chair, Board of Directors and Executive Committee Moshe Cohen
Director, Midreshet Yerushalayim – Israel Dr. Yair Paz
Director, Midreshet Yerushalayim – Eastern Europe Rabbi Dr. Rafi Kaestmov

Midreshet Yerushalayim – Israel

**Numbers and Programs 2010-11**

Midreshet Yerushalayim adult education has expanded to include Batei Midrash for the general Israeli public in partnership with Masorti congregations. Batei Midrash operated this year in Karmiel and Haifa. Looking ahead: A Bet Midrash program for Neve Schechter in Neve Zedek will open in the fall, under the able direction of Rabbi Roberto Arbib, with a rich array of activities for residents of Neve Zedek and the greater Tel Aviv area.

- Altogether 28 Jewish studies courses were conducted in eight cities including Jerusalem, Tel Aviv, Haifa, Karmiel, Nesher, Nazareth Illit, Maale Adumim and Ashdod, with over 900 participants
- NEW! Three new MILI clubs opened in Ashdod, Bat Yam and Rishon LeZion bringing the total number of MILI Jewish Culture clubs in Israel to 11, with over 350 participants
- NEW! A MILI International club opened in Kharkov, Ukraine. It joins the veteran Vinnitsa club which continues to meet on a regular basis, led by Leonid Kantor, a Legacy Heritage graduate of the MILI OLAMI Jewish leadership course
- 3 MILI National Competitions took place on Hanukah, Purim and Jerusalem Day, drawing 125-150 participants each time, with “virtual” participation allowing up to 1,000 game enthusiasts to join in from around the world
- 30 fieldtrips throughout Israel
- 24,000 visitors per year go to the Midreshet Yerushalayim Jewish studies resource website in Russian, www.mili.org.il, with MY publications, Ask the Rabbi column, Weekly Torah Portion, calendar of events and more
- 35 regular participants in the weekly “Heritage Trail” (Shvilei Moreshet) seminar and fieldtrip on Jerusalem Epigraphics: Ancient Manuscripts, Alphabets and Epigraphic Inscriptions

Initiatives 2010-11

**Schechter Batei Midrash Reaches Wider Audiences**

Midreshet Hakerem for Jewish Culture, affiliated with Karmiel’s Masorti Kehilat Hakerem, completed a second year of pluralistic Jewish programming for Israel’s north with attendance up 20%. Developed in partnership with the Masorti Movement and Schechter graduate Rabbi Reuven Resnick of Kehilat Hakerem, the midrasha offered five weekly Jewish studies classes in Hebrew, Spanish and Russian with over 80 weekly participants and a bi-monthly special lecture attended by 50-100 people. The varied program also included field trips.

**Midreshet HaCarmel**, the Bet Midrash of Masorti Kehilat Moriah in Haifa, led by Schechter graduate Rabbi Dubi Haiyun, offered seven weekly courses taught in Hebrew and Russian with 125 participants as well as special workshops planned around the holidays. A Hebrew ulpan was started for 20 new immigrants to learn Hebrew and basic Judaism. The success of Bet Midrash programming has had a positive impact on synagogue membership, and has led to an increase in the number of participants in the congregation’s Bar/Bat Mitzvah program. (See profile, page 20).

**MILI Jewish Culture Clubs Continue to Innovate**

The MILI program conducts intellectual games and quizzes on Jewish heritage, modeled on the What? Where? When? Russian TV game show format. The program which draws adults in their 20s and 30s both in Israel and Ukraine, offered new programming, including:

- **Quest**, a game that turns quiz questions about Jerusalem into a treasure hunt between competing teams all around the city. Altogether, 140 contestants participated in two separate Quest events
- Over the summer, a competition for the “Best MILI Question” was publicized around the world and the three winners will be announced at an international game competition in November 2011
- A special “Ashdod Trophy” event is planned for October 2011 to put the spotlight on MILI’s newest club

A special MILI workshop for TALI-Ukraine teachers was held in June (see page 19).

Midreshet Yerushalayim – Ukraine

**Numbers and Programs 2010-11**

1,200 children and their families participated in Midreshet Yerushalayim programs, the only Conservative Jewish educational network in the former Soviet Union, in the following frameworks:

- Five TALI Family Education Centers in Kiev, Donetsk, Chernivtsi, Berdichev and Kharkov, with Chirkasi and Nikolayev Family Centers receiving pedagogical support
- Chernivtsi TALI Day School, 320 pupils, with more than 300 children and parents attending Shabbat services and weekly programming
- Kharkov TALI Day School, with 100 students (grades 1-10) joined the TALI school network in 2009
- Kiev Cultural Center programming seven days a week, attracting 200 participants weekly with Armon (Chestnut) Community Sunday School, Kiev Bet Midrash, weekly Kabbalat Shabbat, a teenage leadership development program, clubs in Jewish Film, Drama and Literature and Poetry
- Armon (Chestnut) Community Sunday School celebrates a decade of Jewish education for the Kiev Jewish community
- Chanukah Shabbat Retreat for Kiev Families organized in December 2010
- 19th Annual Ramah-Ukraine Summer Camp: 160 children and 35 staff (See profiles, page 21) came together for 9 days of camp fun and Jewish learning
- 9th Annual Family Camp, 45 participants (parents and children), were exposed to the importance of Jewish education and the beauty of living Jewish values together, strengthening their commitment to the year-round family learning centers
- Rabbi David Clayman Memorial Resource Library received a number of new acquisitions this year on the subject of the Five Books of Moses for adults and children. This mobile resource center services both Camp Ramah-Ukraine and the Kiev Cultural Center during the school year
Seven-day teachers’ training seminar  In June 2011, a seven-day teachers’ training seminar focused on the study of Hebrew through Jewish tradition and literature. 35 teachers from Midreshet Yerushalayim schools and family centers were treated to high-level academic lectures by Dr. Rafi Kassimov. MILI game coordinator Leonid Kantor gave a workshop on using the MILI Jewish culture quiz as a pedagogical tool in the schools and led a game with the teachers. It is hoped that the MILI model will be introduced into the school network in 2011-12.

Shabbat Retreat for Kiev Young Families  A “mini-camp” for parents and children of the Kiev Kehilah took place over Shabbat Chanukah in December 2010. Over 40 participants joined the 4-day retreat sponsored by Midreshet Yerushalayim and Masorti Olami. The retreat is part of a comprehensive Jewish education program being developed to enrich Jewish family life of this nascent Masorti community in Kiev.

Turetsky Rabbinical Scholar to become first Masorti rabbi in FSU  Schechter rabbinical student Reuven Stamov will be installed rabbi of the Masorti Kehilah in Kiev and the first Masorti rabbi in the former Soviet Union in a festive event scheduled to take place at the Ramah-Ukraine Family Camp in mid-July 2012. Organized by Midreshet Yerushalayim and Masorti Olami, the installation will bring Schechter and Masorti Olami leaders from around the world to celebrate this exciting milestone. For more information, contact: pr@schechter.ac.il.

A Letter from Kharkov

“Gila Katz’s 5-day working visit to our school included monitoring classes, giving master classes, teacher consultations, contributing teaching materials and more… We already see results… lessons in our Jewish subjects are more lively, informative and of a deeper nature. The children are showing increased interest in the material and in their motivation to delve deeper into questions pertaining to Jewish life. We are most grateful to Midreshet Yerushalayim for bringing us successfully into our 2nd year of collaboration.”

Prof. Eugeny Persky, Principal TALI Day School, Kharkov
Bet Midrash: New Model to “Grow” the Learning Community

For Rabbi Dubi (Dov) Haiyun, 49, a Bet Midrash (Study Hall) must be open from early morning until late at night. And so it is at Midrashet HaCarmel, where on any given morning, one finds Rabbi Dubi greeting students at 7:30 a.m. when he opens the doors, and at 10:30 p.m., when he locks up most nights.

Over the last few years, Midrashet Yerushalayim has expanded its educational mandate to include Batei Midrash for the general Israeli public in partnership with Masorti congregations. Midrashet HaCarmel, the Bet Midrash of Masorti Kehilat Moriah in Haifa which opened almost two years ago, follows in the footsteps of Karmiel’s Midrashet Hakerem, the flagship for this new model of community outreach.

“Success brings success,” beams Rabbi Haiyun. He established the Bet Midrash in 2009 with a clear purpose: “The Bet Midrash must open up new intellectual vistas, bring in new people and new life to the Kehilah.” Dubi feels that Haifa is still in the beginning stages of a Jewish renaissance and Midrashet HaCarmel is well positioned to “bring the world of Jewish tradition to the average Israeli.”

This past year, Dubi introduced a rich array of learning options into Midrashet HaCarmel, including seven weekly courses taught in Hebrew and Russian with 125 participants, as well as special workshops planned around the holidays which drew as many as 150 people per event. A Hebrew ulpan was started where 20 new immigrants learned Hebrew and basic Judaism. “My mission is to let every person who enters our gates find his or her niche within our learning community,” says Dubi.

Rabbi Dubi is a whirlwind of ideas combined with non-stop action. His long-term plans for Midrashet HaCarmel are ambitious. He would like the Bet Midrash to serve as an educational hub to train teachers from the Ministry of Education. He hopes that one day, it will serve as the northern branch of the Schechter Institute, where students from the north would take one year of academic study in Haifa, completing their M.A. in Jerusalem. “I maintain a high academic level at the Bet Midrash, but one that has a Jewish message,” he adds.

To keep pace with its expanding study program, Dubi is training a community coordinator who has already begun to work with him. In addition, Midrashet HaCarmel is expanding its premises. When complete, a new annex will add an additional 52 sq. meters to existing space. “We have a thriving community that lives and breathes,” says Dubi. As if to make his point, he relates the most recent project he’s taken under wing: 24 young Russian immigrants adopted by Kehilah members, just started a 3-month morning Hebrew ulpan in the Bet Midrash, following which they will enter the Israeli army.
The “Israeli delegation” of counselors that made their way to the annual Camp Ramah-Ukraine in August, was, by and large, returning to the home of their mother tongue and to childhood memories that remain sweet. The Israeli mishlachat, as it is called in Hebrew, also attests to the success of Midreshet Yerushalayim in the former Soviet Union.

“We don’t want our brothers and sisters overseas to forget they are Jews and that they are part of a glorious Jewish tradition. Camp Ramah is the perfect classroom ‘without walls’ to instill this message.” – Yoel Russu

Yoel Russu, 27, immigrated to Israel in 2003 with his mother and brother. Today, he is married with a new baby, living in Ma’ale Adumim. He remembers walking to the new Jewish school that had opened in his hometown of Chernivtsi.

Eyal Riazanov, 25, made aliyah only eight months ago from Chernivtsi, where as a teen he attended the TALI Chernivtsi Day School. He first went to Camp Ramah at age 15. There he bonded with Reuven Stornov, who was his counselor at the time. Eyal returned twice as a counselor. This was his third year at camp, but the first, returning as an “Israeli.” “I’ve wanted to come to Israel for such a long time. Only now could I fulfill my dream.” For the immediate future, Eyal is committed to a full tour of duty with the IDF.

Polina Yurkovetsky, 25, made aliyah in 2009. She grew up in Uzhgorod. At 13, she found her “Jewish home” at Midreshet Yerushalayim’s Family Education Center. From that moment on, Camp Ramah became an integral part of her life, first as a camper, and then as a counselor. “I have missed only one year of camp…and that was the summer I made aliyah!” she remembers with a smile. Today, Polina lives in Jerusalem, where she works with Russian-speaking students through the Jewish Agency’s MASA program. Returning to camp this summer was important to her. “Many children know they are Jewish, but they don’t ‘feel’ their Judaism. Camp is a unique way for them to ‘feel’ a part of a larger Jewish family.”

These are kids that grew up with a solid Jewish background, be it through a family education center, the Chernivtsi Day School or Camp Ramah summers in the Ukraine. As proud Jews, they opted to move to Israel. Now as proud Israelis, they return to Ukraine to pass on this pride and knowledge to a new generation seeking a connection to their Judaism.
Schechter Grows in Jerusalem

The Legacy Heritage House of the Schechter Institute of Jewish Studies will officially open on October 30, 2011 for the start of the 2011-12 academic year. Over 600 students will learn in this 25,000 sq. ft building that adjoins the Israel Museum and faces a southern panorama of the hills of Jerusalem. The five-story building, designed by Israel Prize laureate Ada Karmi-Melamede, makes exceptional use of open space and natural light which can be seen and felt as one walks through the ground floor Harvey L. Miller Family Bet Midrash and first floor classrooms. This sense of airiness and expanse follows one up to the highest three floors which hold fourteen lecture halls, classrooms and seminar rooms. A student lounge and art gallery for permanent and visiting exhibits are located on the ground floor. The basement houses the TALI Pedagogic Center.

We gratefully acknowledge the generosity of the following donors for enabling Schechter to build this house of pluralistic learning in the heart of Jerusalem:

**Founders**
William Davidson z"l, Harvey L. and Jan Miller, Robert and Arleen Rifkind

**Pillars**
Jerusalem Foundation, Jerome and Miriam Katzin, Paul and Sheri Robbins and Family

**Benefactors**
Gary Berman, Alisa and Daniel Doctoroff, Lou and Judy Miller, Aaron and Arleen Priest, in memory of Rabbi Arnold and Noemie Turetsky z"l, Harold and Carole Wolfe & Ab and Phyllis Flatt

**Patrons**
Julius and Ray Charlestein Foundation, The Hannah S. and Samuel A. Cohn Memorial Foundation, Ben Teitel Trust, Gerald Cook, Trustee, Sydney and Nancy Unobskey, Barry and Paula Sonshine in honor of Mildred Sonshine and in memory of Joseph Sonshine z"l, Bonnie and Marty Tenenbaum

and Lily Silver Family Foundation, Rick and Ann Tavan in memory of Beverly Pressman z"l, Peter and Deborah Wexler, Diane and Howard Wohl, Edward and Barbara Zinbarg

**Builders**
Morris and Beverly Baker Foundation, Hubert J. and Frances Brandt, Bernice Cohen, Lester Crown, Gershom and Carol Kekst, Kochav Trust in memory of Rabbi Mordecai Waxman z"l, Theresa B. and Ivan E. Levinsohn z"l, The Charles M. Morris Charitable Trust, Nathan
Schechter Expands to Tel Aviv

The Legacy Heritage Center for Jewish Culture of Neve Schechter opens its doors for the 2011 High Holidays. Lecture series, concerts and theatre, walking tours and art exhibitions, academic and non-academic Jewish studies courses and interfaith encounters are planned. The *Masorti Kehilah in Neve Zedek*, led by Rabbi Roberto Arbib, will provide an alternative religious and spiritual option for the neighborhood and beyond. The Neve Schechter Campus comprises a restored historic twostory building and courtyard built in 1886 by a member of the Templers, a German Protestant sect; and in the future, an Early Childhood TALI Education Building. The restored courtyard will replicate Café Lorenz - the original coffeehouse which served such famous literati as Nobel Prize Laureate Shai Agnon. Totaling over 17,000 sq. ft, the campus is designed by award winning architect, Michal Kimmel of Tel Aviv’s Kimmel-Eshkolot Architects.

We gratefully acknowledge the generosity of the following donors for enabling Schechter to build this house of pluralistic learning in the heart of Tel Aviv:

**Benefactors**
Jake and Janet Farber, Atid Foundation-Toddy Granovsky, Simha and Sara Lainer Family Foundation

**Builders**
Ken and Nira Abramowitz, Diana and Manolo Berezdivin, Dr. David Braun, Yaakov Davidson z”l Trust, Morton and Miriam Steinberg, Howard and Carole Tanenbaum, Temple Beth Am, Los Angeles, The Ziering Family Foundation

**Patrons**
Louis and Irma Colen, Ricki Lieberman, Park Avenue Synagogue, New York, Irving and Geraldine Schaffer z”l, Alan and Angel Schneider, Carl and Tove Sunshine

**Synagogue Friends**
Anonymous, Bob and Sandra Braun, Ze’ev Bregman, Judith Cowan, Rabbi Elliot and Marlynn Dorff, Stanley Gold, Dr. Eyal and Gilly Gur, Dr. Miriam Hahn, Ronny and Ariela Hahn, Janet R. Halbert (Halberstadt), Eva Hershkowitz, Irit and Murrel Kohn, Revital Paz-Lampardt, In memory of Haim Aharon Murray z”l, Rabbi Joel and Frayda Rembaum, Mel and Barbara Schwimmer, Shertok Family, Steve Davis and Julie Shuer, Skip and Jill Sperling, Liliane Targownik, In memory of Erela Yashiv, by her sons - Eran, Yuval and Dan

Daniel and Barbara Drench, Michal and Etan Kimmel, Mordechai Kiriati Fund, In Memory of David and Yaakov Komfeld z”l, David and Karen Kremerman, Dr. Paul and Etta Rozen, Michael and Vardina Szold
Development and Communications

Vice President for Development, Eitan Cooper
Director of Communications, Linda Price
North American Representative, Avrum Lapin, EHL Consulting

The Schechter Institutes, Inc.

Highlights of Activities

The past year continued to be framed by economic uncertainty and questions about the short term future. Nonetheless, in the face of unprecedented challenges, from the period of July 31, 2010 - June 30, 2011, Schechter raised $4,544,486 for operating expenses, an increase of 4% over the same period in 2009-10, enabling our four Amutot to conduct academic, educational and outreach activities at its main campus in Jerusalem, throughout the entire State of Israel and in Eastern Europe, making a Jewish impact on the lives of more than 40,000 people.

Capital campaigns near completion

Jerusalem: Through June 30, 2011, the campaign for the Jerusalem Campus has received cash and commitments of $10.47 million, $8.47 million of which is designated for the nearly-completed Legacy Heritage House classroom building, bringing us ever so close to our goal of $8.7 million.

Neve Zedek: Through June 30, 2011, the campaign for the soon-to-open Legacy Heritage Center of Neve Schechter in Neve Zedek has obtained $3.6 million in cash and commitments toward the $3.8 million needed to complete the restoration.

We salute each supporter to both of these exciting capital campaigns. Special Naming Opportunities remain for donors who are prepared to offer “last dollars.”

Our generous community of contributors and friends continues to enable the Schechter Institute to pursue its mission of Jewish education and knowledge, and leadership in promoting religious pluralism and tolerance. We are grateful to all our donors and funders for their generosity and loyalty, especially in this difficult period, and look forward to their ongoing efforts as partners, making a difference in the Jewish future of the State of Israel, truly... Bringing the Jewish People Together.

New Major Gift Commitments ($10,000 and up):

- Programs and General Support
  - William Davidson Foundation, Schechter Graduate School Scholarships and Faculty Fellowships
  - David Berg Foundation, Hebrew edition, As a Driven Leaf
  - Ben Farahi, M.A. Scholarships
  - Michael Gould, Louis Ginzberg's Commentary on Yerushalmi Pesahim
  - Roger Hertog, Schechter Graduate School, general support
  - UJA-Federation of New York, Expansion of CPE program to Schechter Graduate School
  - Robert Weinroth, Hebrew edition, As a Driven Leaf
  - JUF Federation of Metropolitan Chicago, Schechter Rabbinical Seminary, Mishlei Program; TALI Bar-Bat Mitzvah Seminar, Kibbutz Hanaton
  - Paul and Sheri Robbins, Schechter Rabbinical Seminary, Mishlei Program
  - Peter and Deborah Wexler, Schechter Rabbinical Seminary, Mishlei Program
  - Diana and Manolo Berezdivin, New TALI school
  - Gary and Carol Berman, New TALI school, Hadera
  - Buddy and Fran Brandt, TALI Textbook Development
  - Jewish Federation of Kansas City, New TALI school, Ramle
  - Jonathan Lopatin, Leket activity for TALI schools
  - David and Inez Myers Foundation, New TALI school, Kfar Yona
  - Susan and Scott Shay, TALI Strategic Planning
  - Soda Stream (Daniel Birnbaum, CEO), TALI Choir Competition

- UJC of Greater Metro West, TALI School Rabbis from Masorti Communities and TALI Bar-Bat Mitzvah Seminar, Kibbutz Hanaton
- Ziering Family Foundation, TALI-M.A. Educational Leadership Program
- Edward and Barbara Zinbarg, Joint TALI-Masorti development project, Beersheba
- Andy Hochberg and Rabbi Vernon Kurtz, Midreshet Yerushalayim Rabbinic position in Kiev
- Israeli Government Emergency Fund, Midreshet Yerushalayim Israeli study programs
- Genesis Philanthropic Group, Midreshet Yerushalayim MILI program expansion
- Abraham and Sonya Rochlin Foundation, Additional support, Midreshet Yerushalayim in Ukraine
- Alvin and Fanny B. Thalheimer Foundation, Midreshet Yerushalayim Center, Kiev
- Simha and Sara Lainer Family Foundation, Neve Schechter, educational and cultural programming
- Howard and Carole Tanenbaum Family Charitable Foundation, Neve Schechter, Arts and Judaism programming

We wish to gratefully acknowledge all those who contributed generously in March 2011 to the TALI Emergency Campaign, which surpassed its goal of raising $300,000 in one month, and enabled us to continue providing vital services to TALI schools:

New or Additional Capital Commitments ($10,000 and up):

Atid Foundation - Toddy Granovsky, Trustee, Neve Schechter
Daniel and Barbara Drench, Neve Schechter
Ricki Lieberman, Neve Schechter
Howard and Carole Tanenbaum Family Charitable Foundation, Neve Schechter
Diane and Howard Wohl, Jerusalem Campus

Fundraising in Israel

Altogether, $110,000 was raised this year in Israel for operating expenses. The Board of Trustees views the increase in Israeli gifts as critical to the future of Schechter, and at the May 26 Board meeting appointed a committee to plan strategy for significantly increasing this amount in 2011-12.

Schechter Board News

The Schechter Institutes, Inc., under the leadership of Saul Saunders met in New York in November 2010 and February 2011. The Schechter Institute of Jewish Studies Board of Trustees, led by Saul Sanders and by Executive Committee Chair Ya’akov Tsur convened in December 2010 in New York and Jerusalem via videoconference and at Neve Schechter in May 2011. The Schechter Rabbinical Seminary, led by Board Chair, Prof. Hanan Alexander and Executive Committee Chair Ilana Laderman Mushkin, conducted their board meetings via video conference in Jerusalem and New York in November 2010 and in Jerusalem in May 2011.

New Leadership

Schechter Institute of Jewish Studies  Ya’akov Tsur stepped down as Chair of the Schechter Institute Executive Committee after four years of dedicated service. Colette Avital was unanimously approved to succeed Mr. Tsur. Avital is a seasoned foreign diplomat who served as Israeli consul general to the United States and later as a member of Knesset. Today she is Director General of the Educational Center of the Berl Katznelson Foundation. Also stepping down from the committee are Jac Friedgut, longtime treasurer, Miriam Rosenthal and Prof. Menachem Milson, whose contributions to Schechter are greatly appreciated. In addition, terms of office for Board of Trustees members Shaike
El Ami and Dr. Motti Shalem expired in December 2010 and we thank them for their service. Sarah Teperberg, Jerusalem; an associate in the Jerusalem law office of Zeev Well and Partners and past chair of the WIZO Jerusalem Branch, joined the Schechter Institute Board of Trustees in May 2011. Diane Wohl, Mill Neck, NY; a Jewish community activist with a wide range of local, national and international affiliations who holds numerous leadership positions, joined The Schechter Institutes, Inc. Board of Directors and the Schechter Institute of Jewish Studies Board of Trustees in May 2011.

Schechter Rabbinical Seminary Rabbi Dr. Barry Leff, Jerusalem; Vice President and Manager of Innodata Isogen Israel, a Conservative rabbi who served a number of pulpits in North America and an active lay leader for a number of non-profit organizations, joined the SRS Board of Trustees in May 2011.

Midrashet Yerushalayim Prof. Shmuel Glick, after three years of distinguished service stepped down as Chair. He is succeeded by Moshe Cohen, President of CMI, international supplier of aviation and logistical support, long-time Masorti lay leader, community activist in Kehilat Sukat Shalom in Ramat Ishai and past Chair of the Masorti Movement.

In the Media

Schechter Books
- The Student Struggle Against the Holocaust, authored by David Golinkin and Rafael Medoff, was positively reviewed in various newspapers including Ha’aretz, the Jerusalem Post, the Long Island Jewish World and the Washington Jewish Week, with David Golinkin writing an article on the book in CJ Voices
- Ask the Rabbi: Women Rabbis Respond to Modern Halakhic Questions, by Rabbis Monique Susskind Goldberg and Diana Villa, was excerpted in the London Jewish Chronicle and other questions and answers were translated into Spanish and Portuguese and distributed amongst Masorti communities in Latin America
- The Schechter Haggadah: Art, History and Commentary, by Joshua Kulp and David Golinkin, received a very positive review by the prestigious journal ARS Judaica, 2011
- Kuntress Ha-Teshuvot, vol. 4, by Shmuel Glick, was reviewed in Makor Rishon
- Schechter’s weekly Iyunim Shabbat commentary, co-published by the Masorti Movement, RA and Masorti Olami, was picked up by a new website, The Daily Rabbi, which launched with over 15,000 hits during its first month in April 2011

Schechter Faculty
A number of Schechter faculty members were featured in the media, including:
- Moshe Benovitz in Jewish Ideas Daily
- Eitan Chikli, Eretz Acheret
- Yair Paz interviewed in The Jewish Renaissance in Israeli Society, by Yair Sheleg
- Einat Ramon, op-ed in Ha’aretz
- Yossi Turner, book review in Makor Rishon
- Renée Levine Melammed’s Jerusalem Post series on Jewish Women in History was picked up by Jewish Ideas Daily
- Guy Miron appeared in a movie on Kristallnacht, Channel 1, Israel Television
- Einat Ramon appeared in a film on Tolerance and Pluralism from the Jewish-Christian-Moslem Perspective, Templeton Foundation
- Tamar Elad-Appelbaum participated in JTS blog, Conservative Judaism: A Community Conversation
- Diana Villa, Doron Bar and Moshe Silberschein participated in RA podcasts

His Story/Her Story: Schechter Dean Featured in Jerusalem Post Series The Jerusalem Post Friday Magazine has a new bi-monthly series that began in February 2011, His Story/Her Story, contributed by Renée Levine Melammed, Dean of the Graduate School, which explores the lives of Jewish women who made their mark on history. A professor of Jewish history, Levine Melammed has written numerous articles and books on Jewish women and Oriental and Sephardi Jews.

Following the President

Prof. Golinkin’s responsum on Selling an apartment to a non-Jew in the Land of Israel was endorsed by fifty Masorti rabbis and received coverage throughout the world.

Prof. Golinkin “skypes” with 6th graders on Jewish Law regarding Space Travel:
“Rabbi Golinkin, thank you for talking with us today. It is amazing to think that we could be here in St. Louis and have the ability to learn from you in Jerusalem! Your thoughts brought a real sense of life to the texts that we have been studying and it is so wonderful to be able to connect with a modern day rabbi who is engaged in the same halachic process.”

Sarah Miller, Solomon Schechter Day School, St Louis, MO

"I wanted to thank you for your piece, “Basic Principles of Business Ethics.” I am not Jewish but am a business person … Admiring the ethics of my Jewish counterparts caused me to look on line for a reference and came upon your work …the summations that were given on each point made it easy to understand.”

Tim Riley, Seattle, WA
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<td>Fees for Sales, Services</td>
<td>368,857 Special Programs 221,800</td>
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<td>Miscellaneous</td>
<td>29,646 Network Expansion 252,658</td>
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<td>Administration 305,886</td>
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<th>Income Sub-Total</th>
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<tr>
<td>Jewish Agency</td>
<td>84,300 Weekly Courses and Programs 53,355</td>
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<td>Foundations and Federations</td>
<td>40,000 MILI Program 61,885</td>
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<td>103,625 Land of Israel and Shvilei Moreshet Courses 72,368</td>
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<td>Contributions</td>
<td>27,500 Bet Midrash Development 55,685</td>
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<td>Participation and Fees</td>
<td>66,242 MILI Olami Program 9,500</td>
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<td>Federations</td>
<td>28,500 Schools and Teacher Training 108,000</td>
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<td>Foundations</td>
<td>212,500 Camp Ramah Sessions 93,500</td>
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<td>74,200 Family Programming 22,500</td>
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<td>Masorti Olami</td>
<td>22,000 Student Programming 9,200</td>
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<td>Kev Center 41,700</td>
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Total, 4 Amutot | 7,334,109 | 7,334,109 |

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