Annual Report 2011-2012

Educational Excellence for Israel’s Jewish Identity
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 200 public schools and kindergartens throughout Israel.

**Midreshet Yerushalayim** / An educational network offering study opportunities in Jewish culture to Israelis and immigrants from the former Soviet Union in Israel and in communities throughout Ukraine.

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The 2011-12 Schechter Institutes Annual Report focuses on excellence; not the kind built on individual records of speed, distance or aptitude; but rather, the excellence that propels the human spirit forward toward places of greater humanity and humility, of human kindness and compassion, of a “oneness” with discovering the beauty of Judaism and passing this light on to future generations. A light that is found on Yona Meira’s face as she ponders the healing powers made accessible to her through her M.A. chaplaincy coursework. A light that shines from Shalom Terem, this year’s Israel Education Prize winner and principal of the TALI Alona school, as he guides his pupils on a path of knowledge and self-awareness. A light that shines the way for Legacy Heritage Fellow Naomi Dar as she charts new waters for her emerging Masorti community in Shoham. The light of joy that floods the face of Rabbi Reuven Stamov as he brings just awakened Jews of all ages into the fold of his newly established Kehillah in Kiev.

Educational Excellence for Israel’s Jewish Identity. This is the light guiding The Schechter Institutes. Through the Schechter Institute Graduate School, Schechter Rabbinical Seminary, TALI Education Fund and Midreshet Yerushalayim, thousands in Israel and Ukraine have had their paths illuminated by Schechter’s pluralistic Jewish education; and they are the richer for it.
In July 2012 I had the honor of participating in the joint Schechter Institute-Masorti Olami mission to Ukraine in order to install Schechter Rabbinical Seminary graduate Rabbi Reuven Stamov as our first rabbi in the FSU. As part of the trip, we visited the town of Zhitomir. My grandfather Rabbi Mordechai Ya’akov Golinkin z”l (1884-1974) was the Av Beit Din and de facto Chief Rabbi of Zhitomir from ca. 1913-1919, where he presided over the rabbinic court, delivered sermons every Shabbat afternoon, developed the Tiferet Bachurim organization for 1200 young men, and was able to prevent a pogrom at the time of the Beilis blood libel trial in Kiev.

In 1913, my grandfather published a Hebrew collection of sermons in Berditchev entitled Derashot Harim. On July 16, 2012, I stood in the only remaining synagogue of Zhitomir and re-delivered a sermon “The Redemption of Israel” given by my grandfather in Zhitomir 100 years ago:

"…In order to hope for and await the redemption, it is necessary to plant in the hearts of the younger generation a love for their people and their religion; it is necessary to educate them and get them used to the customs of their people and endear them to them. For this, it is necessary to teach them, first of all, the history of their people and to show them all the extraordinary treasures hidden in the Hebrew people and in its spirit, and then the young generation will certainly not be embarrassed by their origins and will not despise all of our precious treasures.

Because they will know to value their true value! For they will know that we too had illustrious leaders who were no less important than the illustrious leaders of every other people… And then certainly will be fulfilled the words of the Prophet (Jeremiah 31:16) 'And the children shall return to their borders,' for our children who left us will return to our Jewish borders. Amen."

So wrote my grandfather in 1913, but, as I recited his words, I recalled the epigram of Jean-Baptiste Alphonse Karr from 1849: "Plus ca change et plus c’est la meme chose – the more things change, the more they stay the same".

Rabbis and educators in Israel and the FSU (and elsewhere) in 2012 face the same challenges that my grandfather faced in Zhitomir in 1913. Most Jewish children and adults have not received a Jewish education. They do not know the history and customs of our people nor the biographies of our illustrious leaders.

That is the goal of the Schechter Institutes – to restore Jewish literacy to over 45,000 Israeli and Ukrainian Jews every year. We do so first of all by training Jewish leaders and educators – from Dr. Eitan Chikli, the Susan and Scott Shay Director General of TALI to Rabbi Roberto Arbib, the Educational Director of our new Neve Schechter campus in Tel Aviv; from Rabbi Diana Villa the director of Mishlei at the Schechter Rabbinical Seminary to Rabbi Michael Even David who runs the branch of Midreshet Yerushalayim in Karmiel; and from Rabbi Rivon Krygier, the founding rabbi of Adath Shalom in Paris to Rabbi Reuven Stamov who has just founded Kehillat Masoret in Kiev. From the Marpeh students studying Hospital Chaplaincy in the Schechter Institute Graduate School to the police officers studying in the Family and Community Studies M.A. program. From the TALI teachers in the TALI Educators Leadership M.A. program at Schechter to the rabbis and teachers who will study in the Neshama Yeteira course for TALI spiritual educators in 2012-2013. At the same time, we are teaching the children themselves - from 43,000 children in the TALI schools and pre-schools to the high school students in the MILI program to the campers at Camp Ramah Ukraine.

May we continue to succeed with the help of our generous supporters throughout the world “and then certainly will be fulfilled the words of the Prophet (Jeremiah 31:16) 'And the children shall return to their borders,' for our children who left us will return to our Jewish borders. Amen.”

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

Religious fundamentalism is on the rise throughout the world, including the State of Israel. This phenomenon has far-reaching implications for the future democratic nature of our Jewish state.

Especially at this juncture in time, Israel needs Schechter to be on the front-lines, acting as a bulwark against religious extremism; be it the exclusion of women in public gatherings, acts of segregation or desecration of public places.

Your support of The Schechter Institutes and its educational programs that stress pluralistic Judaism and are reaching tens of thousands of Israelis throughout the country is one of the surest ways of guaranteeing that Israel will remain a pluralistic, open and democratic nation.

Our efforts to promote the values and practices of pluralistic Judaism throughout Israel and the former Soviet Union have been applauded by key public and government officials. In Jerusalem, the ceremony dedicating our new Classroom Building and Beit Midrash and the inauguration of programming in our new building was attended by both the Mayor of Jerusalem, Mr. Nir Barkat, and by the honorable Mr. Daniel Shapiro, the United States ambassador to Israel, who spent hours with us despite their hectic schedules. During the installation of Rabbi Reuven Stamov in July 2012 as the first Conservative/Masorti rabbi ever in the Ukraine, the head of the organized Ukrainian Jewish community participated in the procession and addressed the crowd of dignitaries.

Our new Legacy Heritage Classroom Building in Jerusalem is being utilized to its fullest. We have a record number of students studying in this vastly improved environment. This year, in addition to our usual enrollment, a large group of police officers began their studies in a specially tailored Masters program. We hope this will be a catalyst for drawing additional groups of Israelis in leadership positions to Schechter, whose unique educational approach combines pluralism, tolerance, and spirituality with a commitment to practice and Halakha.

We are thrilled to report that Marpeh – a joint program of the Graduate School and the National Association of Jewish Chaplains which offers a specialization in Health-care Chaplaincy (the first program of its kind in Israel!) took off to a great start with ten students. There is a waiting list for 2012-13!

During the year, TALI completed its strategic plan. Based on its conclusion, we will continue to focus on educating Israeli youth from Pre-K to 6th grade exemplifying our commitment to grow future leaders with basic knowledge of Jewish ritual, study, spiritualism and thought, wrapped in a dedication to pluralistic Judaism. To aid us in advancing this endeavor, we received our largest donation ever: NIS 2 million from an Israeli family which is a true testament to their faith in TALI and the effectiveness of our programs today and into the future. This donation will finance a multi-year effort to increase spirituality in TALI schools including the placement of rabbis in many schools to work with the children and to be role models for them.

On our recent visit to Ukraine, my wife Mary and I were both inspired by our exposure to these burgeoning communities and by their thirst for Judaism. Now, with Rabbi Reuven Stamov just returned to Kiev after being ordained at the Schechter Rabbinical Seminary, we expect continued growth, together with the joint efforts of Masorti Olami.

We began formally operating the Neve Schechter - Legacy Heritage Center for Jewish Culture in Neve Zedek (Tel Aviv) this year and expect that as a full range of programs are introduced over the next year we will have many exciting items to report on.

It has been a very busy and an especially productive year, and next year promises to be even more demanding and fruitful.

Thank you for your support of our important work in spreading pluralistic Judaism both in Israel and the Former Soviet Union. I wish you a Happy and Healthy New Year.

Saul I. Sanders
Chairman of the Board of Trustees
Schechter Institute of Jewish Studies
The Graduate School

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

Numbers 2011-12
- 636 students
- 56 faculty members
- 14 interdisciplinary M.A. tracks of Jewish Studies
- 75 graduates in 2012. 1 175 total since 1990
- 8 books published
- 13 conferences sponsored or co-sponsored

Academic News

New Jerusalem Campus Opens / All M.A. classes moved to new and expanded premises in the Beit Legacy Heritage Classroom Building in April 2012. The new campus offers a Beit Midrash, large lecture hall, four seminar rooms, 8 classrooms, art atrium, faculty lounge, student lounge and outside terrace.

Schechter Leads in Numbers / 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.

Enrollment Up / The number of new students in 2011-2012 increased by almost 20% from 120 to 140. New students this year included a group of 40 senior police officers who study in the Family and Community Studies M.A. Track.

Commencement Exercises Held in New Campus / This year’s graduation ceremony took place in the Arnold and Pat Gittelston English Courtyard of the new Schechter campus. 75 M.A. degrees were conferred on May 29, 2012, with three students graduating summa cum laude.

Liebhaber Prize for Religious Tolerance / The 15th Annual Dr. Henia z”l and Rabbi Marc Liebhaber Prize for Religious Tolerance in Israel was awarded at the May graduation ceremony to theologian and scholar Rabbi Professor David Hartman and to Prof. Na’ama Sabar Ben-Yehoshua, Jewish education researcher and social activist.

Marpeh: Academics and Health-Care Chaplaincy / This year, Schechter inaugurated the Marpeh program, which combines CPE (Clinical Pastoral Education) with an M.A. degree in Family and Community Studies. Ten students completed the first year of this two-year trail-blazing program, which includes academic courses related to chaplaincy, clinical fieldwork in a hospital or health care facility and supervisory meetings with program founder Dr. Einat Ramon.

We Remember Monique / Rabbi Monique Susskind-Goldberg z”l who passed away after a long illness in March 2012, was ordained by the Schechter Rabbinical Seminary in 1999. She worked as a Research Fellow in Schechter’s Center for Women in Jewish Law, where she edited or co-authored ten books and taught in formal and informal settings. Her quiet demeanor, gentle nature, deep insight and keen intellect, of which she gave generously during her many years at Schechter, will be sorely missed.

Handmade Midrash Finds New Home / Students of the highly popular Handmade Midrash course, taught by Dr. Jo Milgrom, exhibited their final projects in March 2012 in the beautifully light and airy Rabbi Henry and Yetta Segal Art Atrium.

Ministry of Education chooses Schechter / The Schechter Institute was one of only four institutions in Israel granted approval by the Ministry of Education to teach a Ministry-sponsored Certification Course which prepared Israeli’s teachers to teach the new Tarbut Yisrael public school curriculum, designed to instill Jewish and Zionist values into Israel’s secular public school system. The Ministry has also turned to Schechter and the TALI Education Fund for teacher training and textbook production. See page 14.

New Fellowships for Judaism and Evolution / The Schechter Institute, in cooperation with the Binah Yitzrit Foundation, has established a fellowship program that will engage in and promote research in the field of evolution and Jewish religious practice. In November 2011, the first international conference on Judaism in Evolutionary Perspective, organized by Dr. Paul Shrell-Fox, was held at Schechter with over 100 participants.

Scholarship News

William Davidson Scholarships were awarded once again to all first-year students. The Judge Simon Rifkind and Harry Meresman Scholarships for Outstanding Scholarship and Commitment to Jewish Pluralism, now in their 8th year, were awarded to seven exceptional students; the Prof. Alice Shalvi Scholarships for Outstanding Students in Gender and Judaism and the Arts were awarded to two worthy students and 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 Iranian American Jewish Federation Scholarship Award was given to a student in the Sephardic Studies program.

Library Acquisitions / From the libraries of Prof. Moshe Greenberg z”l, 1,000 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, 1,000 books; Historian Shlomo Barer z”l, 1,000 books, donated by his daughter, Naomi Keren; collection of books donated by Prof. Shalom Paul; and by Margie Tutnauer from the collection of Rabbi Moshe Tutnauer z”l.

Faculty News

Dr. Doron Bar was appointed Dean of the Graduate School. Dr. Bar is a Senior Lecturer and Advisor in the Land of Israel Studies track as well as Advisor for Student Affairs. He succeeds Prof. Renée Levine Melammed who steps down in 2012 after four years of exceptional leadership.
Kekst Faculty Fellowship / The Kekst Fellow for 2011-13 is Prof. Renée Levine Melammed, Dean and Prof. of Jewish History, Academic Editor of Nashim and a leading scholar in the history of Sephardic Jewry and Jewish women's studies.

Promotions / Prof. Renée Levine Melammed was promoted to Full Professor in Jewish History.

Faculty Fêté

Prof. Renée Levine Melammed received a grant from the prestigious Israel Science Foundation for research on 'Jewish Women in Mediterranean Society'; Prof. Guy Miron was elected to the Directorate of the Zalman Shazar Center for Jewish History as the representative for all Israeli Colleges.

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 uploaded over 900 images of art related to Biblical subjects and catalogued them with cross-referenced descriptions in English and Hebrew.

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'akot Dalot (The Cry of the Wretched): Halakhic Solutions for the Agunot of our Time; To Learn and To Teach; Ask the Rabbi, a collection of responsa culled from the Ask the Rabbi website and Taking the Plunge: A Practical and Spiritual Guide to the Mikveh.

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 26 popular and scholarly volumes.

The Center for Jewish Peoplehood Education (CJPE), founded by four educators, including TALI board member Varda Rafaeli, operates from the Schechter Institute with the objective to serve as a catalyst for research, resource development and practical programming in the field.
Yona Meiri makes great use of the word “journey” (Derech) when describing the essence of her life. It starts literally when she sets out “on the road” to Schechter and Jerusalem every Tuesday morning at 5 am. She loves the bus journey and knows that something special will always happen “on the way.” Her “road to Jerusalem” is one of both personal and professional enrichment as well as “a way” toward self-actualization. A woman of great warmth and softness, Yona takes these attributes with her into the TALI classroom where she has taught for the past seven years. In the last few years she has broadened her professional scope to include holistic therapies helping patients find ways to fuse body with soul.

For Yona, her studies at Schechter are “amazing.” She takes the “hard knowledge” from her coursework and molds it into something pliable and therapeutic for patients she is seeing privately, or as part of her Marpeh fieldwork. “Whether it is the texts we learned with Prof. Golinkin on Jewish Law and Medicine, or the way that Dr. Einat Ramon creates the synthesis between academic information and human kindness, Marpeh has allowed me to experience moments of real holiness.”

“My patient [an elderly stroke patient at a senior’s facility in Kibbutz Kabri] asked me if I could give her something to help her. She is a totally secular woman, but still, I brought a Siddur so we could make spiritual ‘seder’ (order) out of her life. With modeh ani each morning I fill my glass again and give thanks. And how do we close the day? I forgive all kinds of people. I clean off my table for tomorrow’s renewal.”

**What is Excellence in Education?** Not just to speak, but to do. Demonstrating love, high motivation and the desire to influence.

**What is the greatest need in Israel today?** Filling the identity void. Today’s generation sacrificed the holy texts but put nothing in their place. We are confronted with Reality Shows and Ratings… a true global phenomenon…and distraction! But the bottom line is that all of us search for the answer to ‘who am I?’ At Schechter, I am ‘at home’ with my Jewish sources. I am empowered to help others understand this energy.

**Education in Short:** When my children see me leaving our home in the morning filled with happiness and empathy, this is probably the purest form of education.
May 2012. Uri Heitner stands on the podium, beaming. He has just received his Schechter diploma and along with it, an award of distinction for graduating with highest honors. Distinguishing himself is not new to Uri. As a young man, he helped found Kibbutz Ortal where he now lives. When the future status of the Golan was uncertain he got involved in the cause and quickly rose in the ranks to become spokesperson for the committee for all Golan communities, a post he held for 10 years in a voluntary capacity. Today his cause is Jewish pluralism.

“In every position I ever held, advancing Jewish culture and Jewish renewal was always a main priority,” says Uri. “It’s in my soul.” Before becoming director of the Center for Jewish Pluralism in 2010, Uri ran the network of community centers for the entire Golan Heights for nine years. There, his energy and ideas found fertile ground. His Jewish Renewal programs reached 32 communities that spanned the entire political and religious spectrum. Through youth activities, content for the Jewish holidays, Batei Midrash programming and more, Uri was able to channel his passion for Jewish culture into the households of thousands across Israel’s north.

“True independence can only come from true cultural immersion. It is the glue that holds Israeli society together... Judaism is not a goat path - it’s a super highway!” he exclaims, with a positive energy that is contagious.

Schechter was a natural choice for Uri. “I found a genuine commitment to pluralism which spoke to my worldview,” he explains. “I don’t rally my forces around contention. I am not against the Orthodox. Judaism needs to be the home for all of us. I can argue a point. But at the heart of the matter, we need to work together. The learning at Schechter perfectly reflects this ideology,” he sums up.

What is Excellence in Education? The transfer of values, more so, even than the transfer of knowledge; starting in the home and carrying right through to university and beyond.

What is the greatest need in Israel today? 1. healing the rifts between religious and secular communities and between the average Israeli and his own cultural ignorance; 2. closing the gaps in social/economic disparities; 3. debunking post-Zionism which threatens to de-legitimize our existence.

Education in Short? Personal example.
Conferences and Lectures Sponsored by Schechter

National Masorti Women’s Study Day in memory of Rabbi Monique Susskind-Goldberg z”l, June 2012

An Evening on A.J. Heschel, with lectures by Prof. Susannah Heschel, Dror Bondi and Dr. Alex Even-Chen, Neve Schechter, June 2012

The Jewish Annotated New Testament, lecture by the book’s co-author, Prof. Marc Brettler, Brandeis University, Spring Faculty Meeting, June 2012

A Hebrew University Conference of the Departments of Jewish Thought dedicated to Prof. Rahel Elio, Prof. Ze’ev Harvey and Prof. Aviezer Ravitzky, featured a number of Schechter faculty including Dr. Ari Ackerman, Dr. Alex Even-Chen and Prof. Yossi Turner, June 2012

Four Lectures on the Hebrew version of Prof. Louis Ginzberg’s Legends of the Jews, taught by Prof. Avigdor Shinan and Dr. Pinhas Mandel, took place at the Schechter Institute, Jerusalem; Neve Schechter, Tel Aviv; Kehillat Moriah, Haifa; and Kehillat Eshel Avraham, Be’er Sheva, May 2012

Fourth Annual Jerusalem Conference, marking 18 years since the establishment of Schechter’s M.A. Land of Israel Studies Track, co-sponsored by the Jewish National Fund, May 2012

The Holocaust in the Eyes of the Artist, The Story of Sam Hertziger, Schechter rabbinical student Annabelle Hertziger; Art in the Holocaust, Dr. Ronit Steinberg, Holocaust Memorial Day, April 2012

Cemetery: A Place of Sanctification or Impurity? Prof. Shmuel Glick; Commemoration Exhibit for the Fallen within the Schechter Community, Schechter rabbinical student, Chagit Dotan, Memorial Day for Israel’s Fallen, April 2012

29th Annual Study Evening in memory of Prof. Saul Lieberman, with guest lecturer, Prof. David Henschke, Bar Ilan University, Schocken Institute, March 2012

Religion and State: The Ultra-Orthodox, “Price Tag” Violence and the Exclusion of Women – Where are We Headed?, Full-day conference with twelve academics, co-sponsored by the International Association of Jewish Lawyers and Jurists, March 2012

God Believes in Man, book launching of a new collection of writings in Hebrew by A.J. Heschel, edited by Dror Bondi, the Annual Rabbi David Aronson Memorial Symposium, March 2012

Three Annual Masorti Regional Women’s Study Days, February 2012

Longing for the New Temple: Celestial Jerusalem, Interfaith Conference, co-sponsored by the Netherlands Center for Israel Studies, February 2012


Women as Agents of Change, Seventh Annual Academic Conference on The Status of Women in Israeli Society, December 2011

The PLO and the Palestinian Covenant, Prof. Moshe Maoz, Lunch and Learn, December 2011

Judaism in Evolutionary Perspective academic conference co-sponsored by the Binah Yitzrit Foundation, November 2011

Unity vs. Uniformity in Jewish Tradition, Prof. David Golinkin, Yitzhak Rabin Memorial Ceremony, November 2011

An Evening on A.J. Heschel, Dror Bondi and Dr. Alex Even Chen, Neve Schechter, June 2012

Outreach


Schechter Graduate Publishes Book on Women Recruits to the IDF / Anat Hacohen, a graduate of Schechter’s M.A. program in Jewish Women’s Studies, recently published an historical account of Israeli women recruits to the Israel Defense Forces, interviewing over sixty women, including Sonya Peres, the late wife of Israeli President Shimon Peres. An adaptation of her Ph.D. dissertation for Bar Ilan University, the book was published by Yad Ben Tzvi in Jerusalem, with a British publisher soon to come out with an English version, Hebrew Women Join the Forces!

National Women’s Study Day Honor’s Rabbi Monique Susskind-Goldberg z”l / The National Masorti Women’s Study Day that took place at Schechter in June was dedicated to Rabbi Monique Susskind Goldberg z”l, a beloved teacher at the Women’s Study Day from its inception 13 years ago. Over 400 women, many of them new immigrants, devoted their day of study in four languages to Rabbi Monique’s Legacy. Sponsoring in partnership with Women’s League for Conservative Judaism, in cooperation with the Masorti Movement, and organized by Diane Friedgut, the study also takes place regionally each February in three locations.

Schechter Faculty Enrich Jerusalem Art Scene / Dr. Jo Milgrom, mentor and teacher of the popular Handmade Midrash workshop, mounted an exhibit at the Jerusalem Theatre, February 2012. Dedicated to her husband, Prof. Jacob Milgrom z”l, the show focused on Jo’s innovative fusion of the holy in our everyday lives. Dr. Tamar Kadari, head of the Judaism and Arts M.A. track, staged a solo exhibit of her sculpture - Works of the Human Body – at the Jerusalem House of Quality, July 2012.

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. 22, Gender and Jewish Identity, consulting editors, Elisheva Baumgarten and Sylvia Barack Fishman, Fall 2011; No. 23, The Jewish Woman and Her Body, consulting editor, Rachel S. Harris, Spring/Fall 2012


Published by Schechter Faculty and Graduates


The Poetry of Rabbi Shimon Bar Zemach Duran, Itai Ben Sa’adon, Jerusalem: Yad Ben Tzvi, 2012 (Hebrew)

Seride Teshuvot: A Descriptive Catalogue of Responsa Fragments from the Jacques Mosseri Collection Cambridge Library, Shmuel Glick, Lieden and Boston: Brill, 2012

New Books 2011-12

Published by the Schechter Institute

Ir Br’i Mehkara, Jubilee Volume for Prof. Yehoshua Ben-Arie, ed. Doron Bar, Jerusalem: co-published by Schechter and Magnes Press, 2012 (Hebrew)

God Believes in Man: The Hebrew Writings of Prof. A. J. Heschel, ed. Dror Bondi, co-published by Schechter, Beit Morasha and Zmora-Bitan-Dvir, 2012 (Hebrew)

Student Struggle Against the Holocaust, by Prof. David Golinkin and Dr. Rafi Medoff, Warmly Received by Educators


Published by Schechter Faculty and Graduates


The Poetry of Rabbi Shimon Bar Zemach Duran, Itai Ben Sa’adon, Jerusalem: Yad Ben Tzvi, 2012 (Hebrew)

Seride Teshuvot: A Descriptive Catalogue of Responsa Fragments from the Jacques Mosseri Collection Cambridge Library, Shmuel Glick, Lieden and Boston: Brill, 2012

Eshnav Le-Sifrut Ha-Teshuvot (A Window to the Responsa Literature), Shmuel Glick, New York and Jerusalem: JTS, 2012 (Hebrew)

Hebrew Women to the Flag! Anat HaCohen, Jerusalem: Yad Ben Tzvi, 2012 (Hebrew)

Fire and Water: Philosophical Models of the Bible and the Sages, Dalia Hoshen, Jerusalem: Hebrew Readings Publication, 2012 (Hebrew)
Academic News

Mishlei – Priming Students for the Rabbinate / Eighteen students studied in the Mishlei program in 2011-12. In April 2012, the entire student body moved to the new Harvey L. Miller Family Beit Midrash in the Beit Legacy Heritage Classroom building. Mishlei was established in 2010 as an innovative two-stage track of study designed to expand the student body and broaden the pool of potential students for the rabbinical program. Mishlei offers students a two-year program which combines study of Jewish sources in the Beit Midrash with academic courses leading to an M.A. in Jewish Studies from the Schechter Institute. Rabbinic studies demands an additional three years of full-time study culminating in rabbinic ordination. Full scholarships and stipends are available to those students who qualify for this second phase of study. Three Mishlei students will join the ordination program in 2012-13.

Mishlei Teams Up with JTS Davidson School in Peoplehood Course / Ten Mishlei students participated in a dialogue course in the spring semester on Jewish Peoplehood with ten students from JTS’s Davidson School of Education in New York. The nine-session course, Invitation to Joint Consideration of Contemporary Jewish Existential Challenges was taught by Dr. Ilan Ezrachi and Varda Rafaeli of the Center for Jewish Peoplehood Education, located at the Schechter Institute.

Ordination 2012 / Rabbi Reuven Stamov, the first Conservative rabbi in the FSU, was ordained at Schechter’s 24th Ordination Ceremony held in Jerusalem on February 3, 2012. Soon after the ordination, Reuven and his wife, Yelena, a Jewish educator, and their two young daughters, returned to Kiev to Kehillat Masoret. He was officially installed as rabbi of the community in July 2012 in the presence of Schechter and Masorti Olami world leaders. Throughout his studies, Reuven worked with Schechter’s Midrashet Yerushalayim program, in partnership with Masorti Olami, to help build up Jewish life in the Ukraine through teacher training seminars, the Ramah-Yachad summer camp and family education programs.

25th Silver “JUBILEE” Ordination Planned for Spring 2013 / Arnie Ben Dor and Chagit Dotan will be ordained in March 2013 in a special jubilee celebration in the new Harvey L. Miller Beit Midrash. Arnie has served as coordinator and spiritual leader of Jerusalem’s Kehillat Y’ar Ramot for many years and as a graduate of the Schechter Chaplaincy program, he works in the field of spiritual care-giving. Chagit teaches in a Beit Midrash study program she established a few years ago in Modi’in.

Overseas Students Tour with Mishlei Colleagues / Nine JTS students and three students from the Seminario Rabinico in Buenos Aires spent the year at Schechter. The course, Jerusalem of the Three Monotheistic Faiths, led by Dr. Doron Bar, brought together JTS students and Israeli Mishlei students in field trips that included on-site text study. JTS students also studied elective courses in the Schechter graduate school in a variety of subjects. In 2012-13, sixteen students from JTS are expected to learn at Schechter, together with five students from the Seminario Rabinico.

Schechter Rabbinical Seminary Will Accept Gay and Lesbian Students / For the first time in Israel, beginning in the 2012-13 academic year, gay and lesbian students will be accepted for ordination. The decision, taken by the Board of Trustees of the Schechter Rabbinical Seminary, stipulates that ordination will be conducted by Batei Din chosen from members of the “Rabbinic Advisory Committee” of SRS, all of whom are members of the Rabbinical Assembly of the Masorti/Conservative Movement in Israel. The committee will reflect the spectrum of opinions regarding the ordination of gay and lesbian students.

Annual RA BBQ Held at Schechter / The Annual Rabbinical Assembly BBQ organized in early July for Israeli rabbis and visiting rabbis from abroad, was hosted this year by Schechter. Held in the new campus building, more than 60 rabbis and their spouses enjoyed a good “ikeb” and received a personal tour of the new campus by President David Golinkin.

Faculty News

Rabbi Shlomo Tucker has been appointed Dean of the Schechter Rabbinical Seminary. Associated with Schechter for twenty years, Rabbi Tucker served as Associate Dean and Director of the Overseas Program for most of that time. Rabbi Diana Villa was appointed coordinator of the Mishlei program in March 2012. Rabbi Villa is a respected lecturer in the Schechter Rabbinical Seminary and was a long-time Research Fellow in the Center for Women in Jewish Law. Rabbi Dr. Harvey Meirovich, veteran member of the Schechter faculty and former Dean of the Schechter Rabbinical Seminary, was appointed to coordinate the overseas rabbinical school program.

2011-12- Initiatives

Legacy Heritage Rabbinic Fellows Program for Kehillah Growth / Under the able direction of Legacy Rabbinic Fellows Rabbi Liron Levy and Rabbi Michal Schwartz, new Masorti kehillot in Holon and Petach Tikvah entered their second year of organized activity with growing membership rolls and ongoing Shabbat and holiday programming. In Holon, Rabbi Liron, in partnership with the Holon Community Center, has nurtured a group of over thirty participants who recently celebrated receipt of their own Sefer Torah. Mostly young families, they gather for Kabbalat Shabbat services at the center and for holiday programming. This year’s Tu B’shvat Seder drew over 100 participants and more than 150 people attended the Purim Megillah reading. In Petach Tikvah, Rabbi Michal, who is a resident of the city, together with a core of active lay people, formed the Masorti Kehillah in Petach Tikvah where she leads a community Beit Midrash and regular Shabbat and holiday services.

The Legacy Heritage Program sponsored services and outreach programming for the new Ra’anana Masorti Kehillah, led by Schechter rabbinical student Gustavo Grinzweig. Gustavo, in addition to conducting weekly services, has established a Beit Midrash and a Youth Leader Institute that met in June.
Legacy Heritage Rabbinic Fellow Naomi Dar (see page 13) will work to establish a new kehillah in Shoham in 2012-13, with the Jerusalem neighborhood of Pisgat Zeev approved as a Legacy Heritage Fellows community in 2013.

Chaplaincy Program Continues to Grow / Six years ago, Schechter pioneered the first accredited chaplaincy program in Israel with Cecil Asekoff, the National Association of Jewish Chaplains, Rabbi Zahara Davidovich-Farkash, Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital and Dr. Einat Ramon, program founder and advisor to the new M.A. specialization. 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 20 certificates in Clinical Pastoral Education with seven students currently enrolled in the program.

New Developments in Pastoral Care / 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 Israeli chaplains. / Schechter graduate Rabbi Zvi Landau is working as a chaplain in Haifa’s Rambam Hospital – a major achievement for pastoral care in Israel. / A day-long workshop dedicated to chaplaincy was held at Schechter in September 2011.

Schechter and RA Partner for Online Learning / Rosh Hodesh “Podcasts” to Rabbinical Assembly members around the world showcased three Schechter faculty members: Dr. Moti Arad, Dr. David Frankel and Prof. Moshe Benovitz, who joined colleagues from JTS and Ziegler in providing the monthly material. Response continues to be positive.

Interfaith Programs Shine at Schechter / SRS continues to develop its interfaith programs with the Netherlands Center for Israel Studies and the Inter-religious Coordinating Council in Israel (ICCI). In February 2012, Schechter hosted fifty pastors, students and faculty from the Theologische Universiteit - Apeldoorn in a workshop with Schechter rabbinical students. Schechter has joined a planning committee for joint training programs for Jewish, Christian and Moslem seminary students.
Ariella Rosen spent a long time distancing herself from thinking about a future in the rabbinate. But when she did allow herself that luxury, she realized that indeed, becoming a rabbi was in her soul. She had a wonderful role model to follow. Her father, Jim Rosen, is beloved rabbi of Beth El Temple in West Hartford for the last twenty years and a frequent visitor to Schechter.

“I looked forward to my year at Schechter. I love the Hebrew language and this year in Israel allowed me to immerse myself in it. It was a hard adjustment at first, but Schechter’s requirement to take courses in Hebrew with Israeli M.A. students is excellent and makes this program unique among rabbinic programs,” explains Ariella.

An integral aspect of the overseas program is the elective fieldwork projects that each student chooses, bringing him or her out of the classroom and into real issues affecting Israeli life. Ariella chose to work with Ultimate Peace, a non-profit that brings together Jewish and Arab children in a non-threatening environment, using the Frisbee as a tool for friendship and fun. She was also involved in Encounter where North American Jewish leaders met Palestinian community leaders. “I came with an open mind to learn. I feel strongly connected to Israel and this year helped me solidify my love and sense of relationship with this land and its people. I was able to interact on a much deeper level than looking out the window of a tour bus or leafing through the international news section of the newspaper,” she says.

What is Excellence in Education? Teaching in a way that helps people ‘learn how to learn.’ I found this at Schechter. Many of the classes gave me tools to decipher information, bringing us to new levels where we could really get into the texts.

What is the greatest need in Israel today? Open-mindedness. There are so many ways to interpret text…and life! So many problems could be solved if there was room made for the “other”. Being here makes me more cynical, but more hopeful as well. The problems here are felt more acutely because the country is so small, but precisely because it is so small, you have the possibility of making an impact.

Education in Short: Growth. Moving in an irreversible way to a place you haven’t yet touched.
Dr. Naomi Dar is setting out on a new mission this fall, when as a Legacy Heritage Rabbinic Fellow, she will begin building a new kehillah – a Masorti community – in Shoham, a popular town for young families that sits squarely between Jerusalem and Tel Aviv. Quite a challenge, but Naomi is not daunted. She helped establish Kehillat Yedid Nefesh in her hometown of Modi’in, where she was chair of the synagogue for many years. The idea of becoming a rabbi evolved over time.

"The role of rabbi unites so many areas that are important to me with activities I enjoy doing. It is the ‘teaching side’ that is more ‘intellectual’ for adults and ‘spontaneous’ with children, combining with the social side and the personal side. Through my volunteer work at the synagogue, I was giving so many hours of my time and also honing my leadership skills, that the move to ‘rabbi’ seemed a natural progression."

Growing up in the Orthodox world, Naomi was uncomfortable with the insularity she feels guides that community. "It is not ‘us’ against ‘them’. For somebody who is a believer, there must be an authentic religious Israeli movement that speaks to the needs of mainstream Israel, and that movement, without a doubt is Masorti," she explains.

In Israel, we are always confronted with two extremes: the religious fanatics that go too far and those secular Israelis who are totally anti-religious. The large silent majority is lost in this shouting match.

But not just defining, being willing to battle for it. This is not just a conceptual thing. It means bringing Israelis into the fold of Jewish life. Here in Israel, we are always confronted with two extremes: the religious fanatics that go too far and those secular Israelis who are totally anti-religious. The large silent majority is lost in this shouting match. We need to take that ‘silent majority’ to their rightful identity, to where they want to go. As religious leaders, we can facilitate this journey.

Education in Short: Personal example, through practice, not preaching.
TALI Education Fund

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

TALI Growth

TALI tops 10%: TALI schools comprise over 10% of all elementary schools in the secular public school system. In September 2012, 6 additional schools and 29 pre-schools will join the network, for a total of 196 TALI frameworks.

2011-12 Numbers

- 187 schools and pre-schools, including 7 new schools and 19 pre-school classes
- 40,000 children
- 9 TALI Pedagogic Supervisors/Counselors worked in 55 schools, guiding curriculum development and providing ongoing pedagogical counseling to 1,200 teachers
- 32 teachers and principals from TALI schools and from the new Ministry of Education Tarbut Yisrael program studied one day a week in the two-year TALI Educational Leadership Program
- 17 TALI Leadership Program graduates completed their M.A. degree in Jewish Studies at Schechter
- 11 TALI rabbis and music specialists worked in 89 schools and pre-schools
- 120 hours of teacher training seminars for TALI teachers in 16 new TALI schools and eight national seminars for TALI principals and coordinators.
- 58 teacher-room workshops totaling more than 200 hours of Jewish studies for over 2,000 non-TALI secular public school teachers
- 6 TALI textbooks and Holocaust curriculum kit published; online organ transplant curriculum produced
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- 6 TALI textbooks and Holocaust curriculum kit published; online organ transplant curriculum produced

TALI 2011-12 Initiatives

TALI Education Fund Launches Spiritual Education Program // A 2,000,000 NIS grant, one of the largest private donations for Jewish Pluralism in Israel ever given by an anonymous Israeli family, is enabling the TALI Education Fund (TEF) to open the Institute for Applied Research and Advancement of Spiritual Education in TALI Schools.

An ambitious multi-year plan to build a spiritual education program for Israel’s state elementary schools and kindergartens will commence in fall 2012, with the opening of Neshama Yiteira (An Extra Soul), an intensive 3-semester seminar for rabbis and other educators. The seminar, which will focus on the basics of Spiritual Education and its pedagogical underpinnings, will be held every Tuesday at the Neve Schechter-Legacy Heritage Center for Jewish Culture in Tel Aviv. The Institute will then conduct a pilot project in TALI schools and kindergartens in its 2nd year of operation (2013-14). The Center will be co-directed by Rabbi Elisha Wolfin, a graduate of the Schechter Rabbinical Seminary and veteran rabbi in the TALI school network and Dr. Eitan Chikli, Susan and Scott Shay Director General of the TALI Education Fund. See profile page 17.

TALI Textbooks Marketed to All Israeli Public Schools // TALI textbooks penetrated the entire Israeli public school system in 2011-12. Responding to the Ministry of Education’s nationwide Tarbut Yisrael initiative, the TALI Education Fund published five books on Judaism and Zionism for grades 6-8. Altogether, TALI sold 37,280 books to more than 200 schools nationwide. These figures tripled the number of books sold in 2010-11. For 2012-13, Israel’s Ministry of Education selected the TALI Education Fund to write and publish the sixth book in its series, My People and My Land throughout the Ages that will be marketed to all 5th grade classes in the public school system. TEF staff led 58 training seminars for some 2,000 non-TALI teachers to instruct them in the use of the new curricular materials.

TALI Choir Festivals Showcase 1,000 Young Singers // The Shirat Halev (Song of the Heart) annual TALI Choir Festival, organized by TALI Music Director Batella Birnbaum, celebrated its 2nd season with an expanded musical repertoire featuring over 1,000 young voices from 25 TALI choirs around the country and two TALI orchestras.

TALI Takes to the Fields with Leket (Table to Table) // TALI’s Table to Table project was greatly expanded in 2012 to include 21 TALI schools, reaching more than 1,600 students, their parents and teachers. The program introduces the Jewish value of Tzedaka by teaching sources on the Mitzvot of Peah and Leket (gleaning and leaving a corner of the fields for the poor) and discussing issues of hunger and poverty today.

TALI Numbers Double at Hanaton Bar-Bat Mitzvah Program // Over 1,000 sixth graders from 17 TALI schools made their way to Kibbutz Hanaton where Schechter graduate Rabbi Yoav Endo and his staff of talented facilitators conduct a two-day educational odyssey that uses the milestone of a Bar and Bat Mitzvah in the building of Jewish identity.

Shira Ackerman New Pre-School Director // Shira Ackerman is new director of TALI’s Pre-School Department. Ackerman is a consultant and teacher trainer at the Preschool Division of the Israel Ministry of Education and the daughter of Prof. Walter Ackerman z”l, beloved mentor to Schechter and TALI for many years.

Jewish Community Federations Visit their “Partnered” TALI Projects // Federation delegations from Pittsburgh, Baltimore and Kansas City made sure to put a “TALI Education Stop” on their itineraries. In Karmiel, TALI pre-schools welcomed the delegation from the United Jewish Federation of Pittsburgh; in Ashkelon, The Associated: Jewish Community Federation of Baltimore joined a Friday Kabbalat Shabbat with pre-school classes affiliated with Kehillat Netzach Yisrael and in Ramle, the TALI Achva school hosted a delegation from the Jewish Federation of Kansas City.

It’s Official: Sifryat Pijama Project in all TALI Pre-Schools // The Sifryat Pijama Project, part of the successful North American PJ Library, today operates in all 110 TALI pre-schools, making TALI the only Israeli pre-school network to adopt the project in its entirety. More than 2,000 parents were exposed to the program, which strengthens love for books among young children and encourages Jewish parenting.

TALI Projects // TALI Projects are presented by the TALI Education Fund.
**TALI Schools Receive Torah Scrolls** / The TALI Ramat Moriah School in Jerusalem and the TALI Yozma School in Modi'in celebrated receipt of a Torah scroll in June ceremonies. The Torah scroll donations were arranged by Schechter Board members Buddy and Fran Brandt, who have facilitated donations of Torah scrolls to five TALI schools. A third Torah Scroll will soon reach the TALI Masorti High School, thanks to the efforts of SRS Board member Blanche Meisel and the Jewish Federation of Las Vegas.

**TALI Textbook Initiatives**

**In Light of Memory: TALI Curriculum on the Holocaust** / A comprehensive educational kit that teaches the Holocaust to children grades 3-6 was introduced into TALI schools this past Holocaust Memorial Day. The kit forms the basis for a Shoah Resource Center, an interactive “room of memory” of 13 ‘stations’. A film to market the kit was produced and can be found on the TALI website, with an English version on YouTube.

**2011-12 Project Updates**

**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, 205 TALI teachers and principals have graduated from the two-year program, with 171 completing the Master’s Degree Program in Jewish Studies at the Schechter Institute. In 2011-12, there were 49 program participants studying at Schechter.

**Petach Tikvah and Ramle Schools to Join Dialogue and Identity** / The Dialogue and Identity Project, entering its 7th year, will be expanding to the center of the country, thanks to the efforts of the program’s co-sponsor, the Jerusalem Center for Jewish-Christian Relations. In 2012-13, the TALI Yesodot School in Petach Tivkah and the Franciscan Terra Sancta School in Ramle will join 12 other schools. In 2011-12, the project operated in 6 TALI schools and 6 Christian-Arab schools in Israel’s north. Altogether, 400 children participated in the program which is based on the Three Religions in the Holy Land curriculum.

**Visual Midrash Collection Grows** / Visual Midrash, the Milgrom Art Interactive Archive has uploaded more than 900 works to the site whose database includes referenced biblical sources, artistic medium, date and short description of the work, as well as artist biographies. The completed site will house 4,000 artworks.

**Friends Across the Sea in English** / The English version of the popular Friends Across the Sea textbook, the first curriculum written for children on Jewish Peoplehood, will enter North American Jewish communities in 2012-13. The book includes a section to spur dialogue between Israeli and Diaspora students.

**Organ Transplants Curriculum Goes Online** / Giving Wholeheartedly, the organ donations curriculum published for 7-9th graders, went “live” this year in an expanded online version for ages 17-25. The site provides information on organ transplants, the different religious approaches to organ donations, dilemmas involved, and tools for teaching the subject in places such as youth movements and the army.

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1. Children of all 9 TALI pre-schools in Karmiel at a June celebration. 2. TALI Choir Festival at Jerusalem’s Masorti High School. 3. Kansas City Jewish Federation delegation with students from Ramle’s TALI Achva School. 4-7: Array of TALI’s latest textbooks. 8. Students from TALI’s radio workshop interview Jerusalem Mayor Nir Barkat. 9. Buddy and Fran Brandt bring a Sefer Torah to the TALI Ramat Moriah School in Jerusalem. 10. Students from the TALI New Immigrants School in Jerusalem attend Bar-Bat Mitzvah seminar at Kibbutz Hanaton. 11. Dialogue and Identity students from Mar Elias School in Haifa visit a synagogue together with TALI students. 12. TALI Geulim students, Jerusalem. 13. Leket (Table to Table) project with student and parents of the TALI Megadim School in Ma’ale Adumim. 14. TALI morning prayers.
Principal Shalom Terem and the staff of the TALI Alona School were awarded Israel’s prestigious National Education Prize, which was presented to him in June at a ceremony by President Shimon Peres and Education Minister Gideon Sa’ar.

For Terem, this was recognition of the 26 years he has dedicated to developing the only school in Israel’s smallest regional council into an outstanding elementary school that conveys not only knowledge and skills but also Jewish values to its approximately 350 pupils. Terem and his colleagues spent two years examining the TALI program before adopting it 21 years ago. “We were one of the first 10 TALI schools. This year, we have parents who are TALI alumni,” Terem says proudly.

Most residents of the three moshavim that make up the Alona Regional Council in Israel’s north near Haifa are secular. But they are so satisfied with TALI, that they also adopted it for all four of their preschools, Alona Regional Council Education official Rachel Bashari notes.

“When we select a program, it is not because it is fashionable, but because it will promote core values,” Terem explains, adding that the school has been involved for many years in TALI’s Dialogue and Identity co-existence program, which brings its pupils together with those from a nearby Israeli-Arab school to better understand each other’s religions; and a similar initiative with a school for pupils with special needs. “These programs help pupils learn the value of knowing the other, but you need to know yourself first to be able to share with others. One of the greatest benefits from Dialogue and Identity is that it has helped our children learn about and strengthen their own Jewish identity while learning and understanding their Arab neighbors’ religion and culture,” he says. “We give the pupils the foundation and they take this knowledge where they want.”

For example, pupils begin the school day by reciting morning prayers. The prayers vary from classroom to classroom, but generally include the traditional prayer that begins with the words, Modeh Ani (I am grateful). “Reciting this every morning helps the children be more aware of how much there is to be grateful for. It doesn’t matter who you thank – just saying ‘thank you’ has an impact,” he says.
What is Excellence in Education? The goal is not to win an award, but to focus on what you are doing. I want each child to run eagerly to school every morning. It begins with a teacher who is a professional and loves and believes in what he or she does, as well as holding the belief that each child is worth 100 percent, no matter what his test scores are. Above all, education must guide the child in being a good and moral human being.

What is the greatest need in Israel today? I am concerned that our society does not place sufficient value on human life and the culture of others. My family is from Yemen, so I call myself an Arab Jew, just like there are Arab Christians, Arab Muslims, and Arab Druze. The culture is the same, though our religions differ. We think our programs help to teach these ideas and cultivate children who care about their surroundings, about animals, and about society.

Education in Short: Personal example and belief in the individual. I believe in the good inclination of every child and the need to develop it.

Teaching Spirituality

Rabbi Elisha Wolfin first encountered Conservative Judaism while serving as a shaliach (Israeli Emissary) for Hillel in the San Francisco Bay Area in the early 1990s. “I was always drawn to the world of spirituality and one reason I traveled to that area was because it is a spiritual hotbed, but man plans and God laughs. It ended up being the Conservative synagogue near our home, and the inspiring rabbi there, that turned me on to traditional Judaism,” he recalls.

When the American Jewish University launched its rabbinical program, he joined the first class. While he enjoyed the studies, Rabbi Elisha, who grew up at Kibbutz Kfar Hanasi in Israel’s Upper Galilee, missed Israel, so he transferred to the Schechter Rabbinical Seminary in Jerusalem. Upon graduation, his family joined eight other dedicated families to establish Kehillat VeAhavta, a Masorti synagogue in Zichron Yaakov, where he serves as the rabbi to this day. He also began working with TALI as the school rabbi for TALI Alona and many other schools throughout Israel. His work with the pupils, teachers, and principals tends to focus on the spiritual aspects of Judaism, allowing soulful and existential questions to permeate the text study or activity, even though such questions are not usually asked in these activities.

“Judaism is not simply knowledge. You can learn a lot, but it might not effect who you are,” he explains. “Jewish texts, history, tradition, values, rites of passage, and rituals are all a profound platform for deep human engagement and discourse.”

TALI has been providing Israeli schools with rabbis for over a decade, and Rabbi Elisha was one of them. They bring this kind of spirituality to the schools. However, it was done in a sporadic and intuitive way – and he aspired to do more. With a generous donation from an anonymous Israeli couple, designated specifically for that purpose, the TALI Education Fund has established the Institute for Applied Research and Advancement of Spiritual Education in TALI Schools. He will co-direct the Institute with Dr. Eitan Chikli, Susan and Scott Shay Director General of TALI.

“The Education Ministry is finally teaching Judaism more intensely now, so we at TALI, who have been the pioneers of Jewish education in Israeli schools, asked ourselves: what is our next frontier? Hence, our goal now is to build a program that will research the teaching of spirituality and train spiritual teachers to influence the school’s atmosphere. We hope to enlarge educational priorities – so that together with acquiring conventional knowledge, pupils will be encouraged to ask questions about the meaning of life and their role in the world,” Rabbi Elisha concludes.
FOCUS ON KIEV: First Conservative Rabbi in Ukraine

Schechter-ordained Rabbi Reuven Stamov, the first Conservative rabbi to serve Ukraine, took up his position in March 2012 at Kehillat Masoret, after his February ordination at the Schechter Rabbinical Seminary, sponsored jointly by Schechter and Masorti Olami. His goal is to strengthen programs and develop Masorti communities, nurturing the Jewish identity and commitment of students and young families.

Kiev Center Offers a Wealth of Programming

Kabbalat Shabbat every Friday preceded by a Jewish film program or Culinary Midrash workshop. Shabbat Mincha program with lesson on weekly Torah portion followed by Havdalah. Armon Family Education Center for all ages, attended by 60 people, includes a Sunday school, Beit Midrash, Hebrew Ulpan, Teen program for Leadership Training, Jewish Arts and Crafts workshops, Israeli Dance classes and the Marom Student Movement. Special holiday events for Passover, Israel Independence Day, Shavuot and the High Holidays.

Beit Chernowitz Opened by MY Young Leaders

The rich Jewish education that many of Chernowitz’s Jewish children received over the last twenty years in their local TALI Day School and Camp Ramah-Ukraine has served the community well. Igor Barenthal, a charismatic Jewish leader who is a graduate of both the TALI day school and Camp Ramah-Ukraine, together with other young leaders, have founded Beit Chernowitz to ensure a sound Jewish future for their growing families. Barenthal, chairman of the new Kehillah, opened the facility after Yom Ha’atzmaut with 30 active members.

2011-12 Numbers and Programs

- 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, Chernowitz, Berdichev and Kharkov, with Cherkassy and

Midreshet HaKerem for Jewish Culture, affiliated with Karmiel’s Masorti Kehillat Hakarem, has become synonymous with pluralistic Jewish programming for Israel’s northern residents. Kehillat Hakarem’s young and energetic Rabbi Michael Even David, a recent Schechter graduate who finishes his first year in Karmiel, doubled the number of courses that Midreshet Hakarem offered in 2011-12. The Beit Midrash, in partnership with the Masorti Movement, drew over 100 participants on a weekly basis to ten courses given in Hebrew, Spanish and Russian. Bi-monthly special lectures and field trips were attended by 50-100 people.

Midreshet HaCarmel, the Beit Midrash of Kehillat Moriah in Haifa led by Schechter graduate Rabbi Dubi Haiyun, offered six weekly courses taught in Hebrew and Russian with 125 participants. New this year: ‘Between Mothers and Daughters’, an innovative workshop that met from February until May 2012; a year-long “Chorus in the Kehillah” Workshop that brought together the musically inclined for song and spiritual inspiration. Additional one-time workshops were conducted around the holidays. A Hebrew ulpan which offered Hebrew classes and basic Judaism entered its 2nd year with more than 20 participants.

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Nikolaiyev Family Centers receiving pedagogical support.

- **Chernowitz TALI Day School**, 320 pupils with a full Jewish studies program.
- **Kharkov TALI Day School**, with 120 students (grades 1-10).
- **Kiev Family Education Center** programming seven days a week, attracting 200 participants weekly (see description above).

- **20th Anniversary of Ramah-Ukraine Summer Camp** was celebrated by 160 children and 35 staff members culminating in a special “Shabbat Reunion”. Past counselors and campers traveled from around the world to attend the 20th anniversary celebration to honor Founding Camp Director Gila Katz.

- **NEW! MILI International clubs opened in Kharkov and Odessa, Ukraine**. They join the veteran Vinnitsa club which continues to meet on a regular basis.

- **The Rabbi David Clayman Memorial Resource Library** will be utilized extensively by Rabbi Reuven Stamov and his wife, Lena, as they plan their Jewish studies curriculum for the Kiev Center.

- A six-day training seminar for teachers and camp counselors took place in June 2012. The annual learning retreat enables Jewish educators to increase their Jewish knowledge, receive the didactic tools to convey this knowledge and build professional bridges of solidarity.

- **Torah Scroll Dedication at TALI Kharkov School** / 120 children, and the parents and teachers of the TALI Kharkov School danced with their very own Torah Scroll, received in November 2011 from Rabbi Richard Plavin and congregants of Beth Sholom Bnei Israel, Manchester, CT. Repaired by Jerry Cook and the Ben Teitel Foundation, the Torah is used for weekday and Shabbat readings, and Bar/Bat Mitzvah preparation.

- **MILI Kharkov Draws over 200 Fans** / In a special opening event in September, co-sponsored by JAFI and Midreshet Yerushalayim, over 200 young people from Kharkov, Donetsk and the outlying areas formed sixteen MILI groups that competed for prizes, followed by Israeli dancing. The event was a great success and kicked off a year that boasted weekly games and social events for the energized Jewish community.
Reuven Stamov, 38, First Masorti Rabbi in Ukraine, ordained by Schechter, officially installed in July 2012 at a ceremony in Kiev attended by Schechter and Masorti Olami world leaders

Twenty-two years ago, the Schechter Institute in Jerusalem founded Midreshet Yerushalayim in Ukraine. The goal was to revive Jewish life in Ukraine with the spirit and approach of Conservative Judaism. But it was clear all along that we needed a Conservative/Masorti rabbi living here in Kiev in order to succeed. Today we have reached that milestone." Prof. David Golinkin

Reuven Stamov, soon after his Aliyah to Israel in 2003, when asked what he hoped his future would bring, replied without hesitation: “I love children and my dream is to become a rabbi, working in Jewish education, and of course, I want to get married and have many children!” At the time, Reuven (then “Roma”) had no Hebrew to speak of; little background in Judaism; and new in the country, no matrimonial prospects.

Nine years later, at his Schechter rabbinical ordination in Jerusalem, Rabbi Reuven Stamov, husband of Yelena and father of Miriam, age 6, and Aleza, age 4, spoke in fluent Hebrew about his “personal miracle”.

Reuven’s early introduction to Judaism came from Gila Katz, founding director of Camp Ramah-Ukraine. She immediately spotted his talent and love for children and invited him to work as a counselor at the camp in 2000. This was the start of a personal odyssey that brought Reuven back to his Jewish roots and identity, giving him the tools to do what he does best: teach and connect with people. He returned to camp each summer as “the singing rabbi”, worked with building Marom young leadership, taught in Jewish day schools and conducted holiday services on a regular basis.

In a moving ceremony attended by a world mission of Schechter and Masorti Olami leaders, representatives of Midreshet Yerushalayim and communities from throughout Ukraine, Reuven re-committed himself to the task of community-building, together with his wife, Yelena, a Jewish educator. At the installation ceremony, Prof. David Golinkin stated: “Twenty-two years ago, the Schechter Institute in Jerusalem founded Midreshet Yerushalayim in Ukraine. The goal was to revive Jewish life in Ukraine with the spirit and approach of Conservative Judaism. But it was clear all along that we needed a Conservative/Masorti rabbi living here in Kiev in order to succeed. Today we have reached that milestone.”

The couple returned to Kiev after Reuven’s ordination in February 2012 and immediately set to work. Together, they have put together an innovative program rich in content. Jewish culture is offered up weekly in a number of courses that cover everything from Jewish cinema to Jewish cooking, Israeli dancing and teen leadership programs. There are also Kabbalat Shabbat services, a Hebrew ulpan and Beit Midrash classes. A Bar-Bat Mitzvah class is planned for next year which will put into place future Torah readers for this young and growing community.

Rabbi Reuven is determined to establish a full-time synagogue, Jewish day school and kindergarten. Just as he was able to actualize his dreams of 2003, there is every reason to believe that Kehillat Masoret will be a ‘dream come true’…just give him and Yelena a few years.
A big roar goes up as all eyes turn to the Chochma Team – a table of six – that has just won the Jewish Content competition at MILI’s (acronym for Midreshet Yerushalayim Learning Judaism) annual Jerusalem Day competition held at Schechter. Close to 200 young Russian-speakers fill the entire ground floor at Schechter. It’s a hot day outside, but the real heat being generated is inside Schechter. The contestants, heads locked together, deep in thought, are intent on solving the Who, What, Where brain teaser questions that the game master is throwing out.

Alice Volkov, Yelena Shirova and Yvgeny Siruk proudly come to the podium to receive their prize – no money or riches – (the game is played for the sheer enjoyment of learning, a Russian version of Torah Lishma) but instead, a medal of the “Owl of Wisdom” – the MILI emblem.

Alice, who is a translator, played the Who, What, Where game in Moscow where she grew up. As team leader she is the player who makes the ultimate decision as to what answer to submit to the judges. “Adding the Jewish content is a great idea. It’s very important for us to know Jewish history and customs. Even though there can only be one winner”, she says with a smile, “everybody learns something.”

Yelena and Yvgeny look like they have just graduated high school, but they come into the competition with full and rich CVs. Yvgeny is a nuclear engineer who worked for a short time at a nuclear plant in Sevastopol. His wife, Yelena, has a degree in education. They met at the Hillel House in Sevastopol where both were youth counselors.

More than nuclear energy has guided Yvgeny in making his life choices. He had been to Israel six times (twice with stipends to learn at the Conservative Yeshiva in Jerusalem) before making Aliyah in September 2011, together with Yelena, as part of a Jewish Agency MASA program. “Yvgeny and I look at this first year in Israel as our ‘sweet-moon’, Yelena says, with Yvgeny quickly making that ‘honeymoon’, and the two break into a smile. Not new to the game of MILI, which has also set up groups in Ukraine, the couple won their first competition in May 2011, just before making Aliyah. In Israel, they met MILI founders Chaim Naymark and Yan Privorotzky, who lectured to their MASA group on Jewish history. Now they play weekly in a MILI club in downtown Jerusalem. “We are passionate about Israel being the home of our future children. Only here can we live full Jewish lives,” sums up Yelena, as the two head home with the MILI trophy in hand.
2012: Jerusalem
Campus Opens for M.A.
and Rabbinic Learning

The Legacy Heritage House of the Schechter Institute of
Jewish Studies officially opened its doors to over 700 students
and faculty in April 2012 when all classes moved to the new
25,000 sq. ft. 5-story building designed by Israel Prize Laureate
Ada Karmi-Melamede. Prior to this, a number of conferences
were held in the Jerome and Miriam Katzin and Dollye and
Wolford Berman lecture halls. The 24th Ordination Ceremony
of the Schechter Rabbinical Seminary took place in the
Harvey L. Miller Family Beit Midrash in February 2012. An art
exhibit by Judaism and the Arts students was mounted in the
Rabbi Henry and Yetta Segal Art Atrium. Altogether,
the building boasts 14 lecture halls, seminar rooms and
classrooms.

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, Arnold and Pat
Gittelson, 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

**Builders**
Morris and Beverly Baker Foundation, Hubert J. and Frances
Brandt, Bernice Cohen, Lester Crown, Gershon 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 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

**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

1. Graduation Ceremony May 2012
2. First classes in the new Lecture Hall
3. Jerusalem Campus Dedication, from left: Saul Sanders, MK Marina Solodkin, Amb. Colette Avital, Prof. Golinkin, Amb. Daniel Shapiro, Mayor Nir Barkat

New Campuses in Jerusalem and Tel Aviv
The Legacy Heritage Center for Jewish Culture at Neve Schechter hosted a number of lectures, a book launching and a musical evening in 2012. The Masorti Kehillah in Neve Zedek, led by Rabbi Roberto Arbib, holds weekly Shabbat services in the new Atid Sanctuary, with hundreds of Tel Aviv residents participating in Neve Schechter-sponsored events on Purim and Shavuot. The official 2012-13 study program kicks off in early September 2012. Year-long courses will include a Beit Midrash, *The Way of Abraham* interfaith program and an Artists’ Beit Midrash. Jewish cultural series, concerts and theatre, family workshops and Bar and Bat Mitzvah programs are planned.

The Neve Schechter Campus comprises a restored historic two-story building and courtyard built in 1886 by a member of the Templers, a German Protestant sect; and in the future, The Center for Jewish Education. 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, Jerome and Miriam Katzin, Joseph and Diane and Morton and Miriam Steinberg Families, Howard and Carole Tanenbaum, Temple Beth Am-Los Angeles, The Ziering Family Foundation

**Patrons**
Louis and Irma Colen, Yaakov Davidson z”l Trust, Dr. Eugene Elovic, Ricki Lieberman, Park Avenue Synagogue, New York, Irving and Geraldine Schaffer z”l, Alan and Angel Schneider, Carl and Tove Sunshine, Rick and Ann Tavan

**Synagogue Founders**
Asher and Marion Arom, Erma, Eva, Rosa and Kyla Blumenfeld, Daniel and Barbara Drench, Michal and Etan Kimmel, In Memory of David and Yaakov Kornfeld z”l, David and Karen Kremerman, Dr. Paul and Etta Rozen, Channa Shvam, Shoshana and Salco Kleerekoper, Michael and Vardina Szold

**Synagogue Friends**
Anonymous, Ariel and Barbara Arbib, Naama Tammen Blagodarow, Bob and Sandra Braun, Ze’ev Bregman, David Broza, Judith Cowan, Rabbi Elliot and Marlynn Dorff, Stanley Gold, Dr. Eyal and Gilly Gur, Dr. Miriam Hahn, Janet R. Halbert (Halberstadt), Eva Hershkowitz z”l, Irit and Murrel Kohn, Ofer Lalush, Revital Lampard, Leah Murray, Avi and Wanda Peretz, Nitzan Primor, Rabbi Joel and Frayda Rembaum, Mel and Barbara Schwimmer, David Shertok, Steve Davis and Julie Shuer, Bilha Solomon, Skip and Jill Sperling, Michael Stawski, Liliane Targownik, In memory of Erela Yashiv, by her sons - Eran, Yuval and Dan

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Our times are framed by ongoing uncertainty due largely to a shallow economic recovery and continued uneasiness about the future. Nonetheless, in the face of unprecedented challenges, from the period of July 31, 2011 - June 30, 2012, Schechter raised a record $5,752,531 for operating expenses, enabling its four Amutot to conduct numerous academic, educational and outreach activities at its main campus in Jerusalem, throughout the State of Israel and in Eastern Europe. This represents an increase of 18% over the same period in 2010-11.

We are proud to announce the completion and opening of two important academic, educational and community facilities during the 2011-12 year.

Jerusalem: Through June 30, 2012, the campaign for the Jerusalem Campus has received commitments of $8,873 million with actual income received at $8.312 million, paid as of July 2012.

Neve Zedek: Through June 30, 2012, the campaign for the Legacy Heritage Center of Neve Schechter in Neve Zedek has obtained $3.835 million in commitments, with $3.429 million paid, as of July 2012.

Our generous donor community has enabled the Schechter Institute to continue to pursue its mission of Jewish education promoting religious pluralism and tolerance in Israel. We are grateful to all our donors and funders for their generosity, especially in this difficult period, and look forward to their continued involvement in our mission.

New Major Gift Commitments
In 2011-12, TALI received two new gift commitments of special note:

- An anonymous gift from an Israeli family to establish the Institute for Applied Research and Advancement of Spiritual Education in TALI Schools
- A gift from the William Davidson Foundation in support of expansion of the TALI School Network in Israel

New Gifts ($10,000 and up)

- Dorot Foundation – To support the TALI Dialogue and Identity Program
- Mark and Odile Ellison – To support a TALI school
- Betsy Gidwitz – In support of Rabbi Reuven Stamov in Kiev
- Raymond and Bernice Coll – To establish an Israeli Friends of Schechter

Charles Dimston - Publication of “A New Psalm”
A joint Schechter Institutes/Masorti Olami mission to attend the installation of Rabbi Reuven Stamov was a wonderful success, with 45 representatives from North America, Europe and Israel participating. Funds were raised before and during the mission dedicated to meeting the costs of Rabbi Stamov’s 3-year rabbinic shlichut.

Long time Schechter friends and Board members Buddy Brandt and Blanche Meisel obtained Torah scrolls for our TALI schools during the past year. Rabbi Richard Plavin and Jerry Cook contributed a Torah Scroll to the Kharkov School in Ukraine.

New or Additional Capital Commitments ($50,000 and up):

- William Davidson Foundation, Jerusalem Campus
- Arnold and Pat Gittelson, Jerusalem Campus
- Jerome and Miriam Katzin, Neve Schechter
- Howard and Carole Tanenbaum, Neve Schechter
- Rick and Ann Tavan, Neve Schechter
- Peter and Deborah Wexler, Furniture for Jerusalem Campus

Los Angeles Friends of Schechter
- The LA Friends of Schechter continued to meet and plan for the ongoing development and expansion of the Schechter Institute in the Los Angeles area.
- A Pre-Pesach Study Session led by Rabbi Josh Kulp was hosted by Temple Beth Am in LA through the leadership of long time activist Sandra Braun and TBA's Israel Affairs Committee. The Temple Beth Am community has expressed interest in hosting a Distance Learning Program with Schechter.
- We are particularly grateful to Lou Miller and Bruce Whizin and for the involvement of a dedicated Committee of leaders and volunteers who comprise the LA Friends of Schechter.

Fundraising in Israel
The largest Israeli gift ever received, two million shekels, was given by an anonymous donor to found the Institute for Applied Research and Advancement of Spiritual Education in TALI Schools.

In 2012-13 we will be setting up an Israeli Friends of Schechter. The Friends organization has as its goals, increasing the number of Israeli donors to Schechter and raising the profile of the Schechter Institute in Israeli society.

Communications and Donor Development Initiative in North America
- Driven by a firm commitment to the future, and to ensure its capacity to meet the needs of exciting new program initiatives and ongoing activities of the four amutot that comprise the Schechter “family” in Israel, the Schechter Institutes, Inc. has initiated a program of Communications and Donor Development in North America. The purpose of the effort, begun in the spring of 2012, is to expand the reach of the Schechter Institutes into new communities throughout North America, and to reach and engage an expanded circle of prospective funders. The primary objective: to refresh and grow the circle of Schechter’s dedicated leaders, donors, and friends, especially among emerging major donors age 45-60.

A task force comprised of current and prospective donors from throughout North America, members of the Schechter Institutes Board, and Masorti Rabbis met twice in the Spring of 2012 and its discussions were key to framing the...
issues, challenges and next steps for the effort. In 2012-13, the Communications and Donor Development program will be broadened to include a cadre of Schechter representatives – Schechter faculty, staff and lay leaders, who will be called upon to articulate Schechter’s vision and impact on Israeli society. Schechter Institutes, Inc. will increase its use of social media and other communication tools to more effectively deliver its message of education for Jewish pluralism, Zionism and democratic values, and to address key issues in Israel and in the Jewish world. We will target our current and prospective donor community in North America, with an emphasis of engaging the next generation of leaders.

A detailed plan is now being finalized and implementation will begin in Fall 2012.

U.S. Ambassador to Israel Dedicates Campus in December

U.S. Ambassador to Israel Daniel Shapiro and Mayor of Jerusalem Nir Barkat were among the distinguished guests who dedicated the Schechter Campus in a festive event on December 5, 2011. Both men spoke of the vital role that Schechter plays in maintaining the pluralistic nature of the city of Jerusalem and congratulated Prof. David Golinkin on his achievements as President. **Amb. Colette Avital**, Chair of the Executive Committee and **Saul Sanders**, Chair of the Board of Trustees, spoke of the historic importance of the opening and reaffirmed their commitment to strengthening Schechter for the challenges that lay ahead.

Schechter Board News

The Schechter Institutes, Inc., under the leadership of **Saul Sanders** met in New York in November 2011 and January 2012 (via phone conference). The Schechter Institute of Jewish Studies Board of Trustees, led by **Saul Sanders** and by Executive Committee Chair **Colette Avital**, convened in December 2011 in New York and Jerusalem via videoconference and in Jerusalem in June 2012. 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 December 2011 and in Jerusalem in June 2012.

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1. Jonathan Aaron, William Davidson Foundation, with Prof. David Golinkin 
2. Prof. Golinkin with Sharon Liebhaber and Rabbi Alan Eiser 
3. Sheri and Paul Robbins with Prof. Golinkin 
4. Harold and Carole Wolfe and Phyllis Fiatt visit their Jerusalem classroom 
5. Irving and Todd Granovsky celebrate a grandson’s Bar Mitzvah in Neve Schechter 
6. Elam Kott brings a Torah from Blanche Meisel and Las Vegas Jewish Federation for a TALI school 
7. Vicki Berman and Yechezkel Dror in Schechter’s new auditorium 
8. Board members (from left): Mary Sanders, Diane Wohl, Janet Moshe (guide), Saul Sanders and Aaron and Arleen Priest 
9. At Jaffa Gate (from left): Avrum Lapin, Raymond Coll, Frances Brandt, Bernice Coll, Saul and Mary Sanders, Diane Wohl, Ilana Laderman Mushkin, the Brandt-Rauff family, Buddy Brandt and Aaron and Arleen Priest 
10. Oded and Mathilde Davidson at a family dedication in Neve Schechter 
11. Park Avenue Synagogue Mission Dedicates Synagogue Ark, Neve Schechter 
12. Oded and Mathilde Davidson at a family dedication in Neve Schechter 
13. Israeli Consul General in Guangzhou, Avi Nir, and Iris Nir (right), with Dr. Shula Laderman 
14. Rabbi Daniel Pressman with Prof. Golinkin
New Leadership

Schechter Institute of Jewish Studies / A number of prominent Israelis have joined the board this year. Mr. Shlomo Zweig, former Deputy Director of Bank Mizrahi is new Board Treasurer, succeeding Mr. Jac Friedgut, whose wise counsel contributed inestimably to the fiscal health of the institution in the many years he served as Treasurer. Mr. Ralph Goldman, Honorary Executive Vice-President of the JDC (Joint) stepped down from the Executive Committee after a number of years of exemplary service for Schechter. New board members include: Dr. Amir Fink, archaeologist and author; Mr. Mati Herbst, CEO Managing Partner, Herbst Holdings L.L.C.; Mr. Avi Porten, advocate and co-director of Agmon & Co. Law Offices, Jerusalem; Rabbi Benjamin Segal, former President of the Schechter Institute and Melitz; Emily Levy Shochat, Chair, Masorti Movement; Mr. Jonathan Steinberg, CEO Natam, commercial real estate and property management, Tel Aviv.

Schechter Rabbinical Seminary / New members to the SRS board include Barbara Goldstein, Deputy Executive Director of Hadassah Israel and Marty Davis, Senior Advisor to the Vice-Chairman of the WZO and an active member of Ashkelon’s Netzach Yisrael Kehillah.

TALI Education Fund / Prof. David Zisenwine, Tel Aviv University School of Education, has been appointed Chair of the Board of Directors of the TALI Education Fund. Specializing in Jewish studies and curriculum development, Prof. Zisenwine, a graduate of JTS, brings much experience and knowledge to his new appointment. We thank Brig. Gen (Res.) Ram Shmueli for four years of distinguished service to TEF.

Midreshet Yerushalayim / Yosef Harush, senior deputy director, Tahel Consulting Engineers, Ltd., director of Asia/Africa Department, Tel Aviv

Schechter Board Members in the News

Colette Avital, SUS Executive Committee Chair, was elected chair of the central umbrella group for Holocaust survivors in Israel. An active member of Knesset in the past, Colette was instrumental in creating a state company for the restitution of assets to Holocaust survivors and their heirs.

Prof. Alice Shalvi received the prestigious “Voice of Conscience” Award from the New Israel Fund in New York, November 2011.

Following the President

Prof. David Golinkin served as a scholar-in-residence at numerous Conservative congregations and spoke at conferences in Israel and abroad in 2011-12. In North America: May 2012, Congregation Habonim, New York, NY; Rabbinical Assembly Convention, Atlanta, GA; three Conservative synagogues in Vancouver ▪ February 2012, Or Hadash Synagogue, Atlanta, GA ▪ November 2011, Temple Beth Sholom, Cherry Hill, NJ and Beth Am Synagogue, Baltimore MD ▪ September 2011, Temple Beth Sholom, Fair Lawn, NJ. In Israel: June 2012, How Should we Take Care of Parents with Alzheimer’s?, Kefillat Hod V’hadar, Kfar Saba; May 2012; International Conference on Custom and Practice in Jewish Life, Tel Aviv University, Minhagim in Different Movements of Judaism, Jerusalem; March 2012, ‘Price Tag’ Attacks and Jewish Law, International Association of Jewish Lawyers and Jurists, the Schechter Institute

Schechter Faculty Invited Overseas...


Heschel Hebrew Translation – God Believes in Man – Receives Wide Media Coverage / God Believes in Man: The Hebrew Writings of Prof. A. J. Heschel, a Schechter co-publication with Beit Morasha and Zmora-Bitan-Dvir, received extensive coverage in the media, including radio interviews with the book’s editor, Dror Bondi, an in-depth article on Ha’aretz Friday Magazine as well as articles in YNET, Makor Rishon and Jewish Ideas Daily, an online service.

Schechter hosts Israel’s Consul General in Guangzhou China / Avi Nir and his wife, Iris, a Schechter graduate, made time while in Israel to meet with Vice President for Development, Eitan Cooper, Director of Communications, Linda Price and faculty member, Dr. Shula Laderman, to discuss short-term Schechter study programs on Judaism and the Jewish People for visiting Chinese groups. Also discussed was the possibility of long distance learning being developed by Ilana Laderman Mushkin. Three groups of Chinese educators from the Chinese Society of Education and the Center for Jewish Culture visited the Schechter Institute between January and September 2012.

1. Randy Wellner, Areivim Philanthropic Group (center left) on a visit to the TALI Geulim School in Jerusalem, together with Prof. Golinkin and TALI educators. 2. From left: Rabbi Michael Even David, Rabbi Shlomo Tucker, Harold Wexler, Peter Wexler and Prof. Golinkin. 3. Mercaz-Masorti Olami delegates visit the new Jerusalem Campus. 4. Rabbi Michael Gottlieb and Kehillat Ma’arav, Santa Monica mission to Schechter. 5. Linda Price with Fern and Edward Fede. 6. Rabbi Jonathan Waxman and Sarna Crane point to the name of Rabbi Mordecai Waxman z”l. 7. The Associated, Jewish Community Federation of Baltimore with TALI pre-schools in Ashkelon.
# Budget 2012
(in $US) January 1 - December 31 2012

## Income

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## Expenses

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## TALI Education Fund

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<td>School Rabbis and Experiential Programming</td>
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<td>Early Childhood Department</td>
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## Schechter Rabbinical Seminary

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## Midreshet Yerushalayim - Israel

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## Midreshet Yerushalayim - Ukraine

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## Total, 4 Amutot

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* Serves all four Schechter non-profits and capital projects and includes budget of Schechter Institutes, Inc. in U.S.
Our Leadership (as of September 2012)

The Schechter Institutes, Inc.
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Hubert Brandt
Dr. Raymond Coll
Prof. David Golinkin
Gershon Kekst
Lew Krulwich
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