JEWISH KNOWLEDGE IMPACTING ON ISRAELI LIFE
ANNUAL REPORT 2012-2013
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:

The Schechter Institutes form an educational umbrella that includes:

**Schechter Institute of Jewish Studies**, the largest M.A. program in Jewish Studies in Israel with 670 Israeli students and 1275 graduates.

**Schechter Rabbinical Seminary** is the international rabbinical school of Conservative Judaism, serving Israel, Europe and the Americas.

**TALI Education Fund** offers a pluralistic Jewish studies program to over 42,000 children in more than 250 Israeli secular public schools and kindergartens.

**Midreshet Yerushalayim** provides Jewish education to Hebrew and Russian-speakers all over Israel and to Jewish communities throughout Ukraine.

**Neve Schechter-Legacy Heritage Center for Jewish Culture** in Neve Zedek, draws thousands of Tel Aviv residents to its rich cultural program of pluralistic Jewish studies.

**TABLE OF CONTENTS**

Impacting on Israeli Life 1
Letters from the President and Chair 2
Schechter Institute Graduate School 4
Schechter Rabbinical Seminary 8
TALI Education Fund 12
Midreshet Yerushalayim 16
Schechter Scholarship for the Community 20
Development and Communications 23
Budget 27
Our Leadership 28
Our Donors 30
For almost thirty years, the Schechter Institute has been doing what it knows best: Imparting Jewish Knowledge. Close to 50,000 Israelis each year are drawn to the beauty and power of Jewish self-discovery and renewal.

The notion of Jewish pluralism, that there is more than one way to express one’s Judaism, is no longer a marginal concept in Israel, but rather, an accepted norm of mainstream thinking. Schechter’s Jewish education agenda has contributed, in no small way, to this new understanding of Judaism and the positive role it plays in helping shape Israel’s cultural and religious discourse.

Jewish knowledge empowers. This is the message that our graduates are taking back to their constituencies; some as small as the nuclear family, others as large as the entire nation, as in the case of this year’s featured stories on MK Meir Cohen, Israel’s Minister of Social Welfare, best-selling author Yochi Brandes and Liebhaber Prize winners Dov Elbaum and Kobi Oz. All speak of the life-changing effect Schechter has had on their lives.

Multiply this effect exponentially – the 1275 graduates and 700 students of the M.A. and rabbinical school programs; the tens of thousands of children, teachers and parents who are connected to TALI schools, or are graduates of the program and the thousands more who have enriched their lives in informal adult education programs through Midreshet Yerushalayim – and you have a sea change underway in Israeli life. The following pages allow you a glimpse into this powerful transformative process.
This past year has been one of steady growth as we bring broader and deeper Jewish knowledge and experiences to increasing numbers of Israelis who are demanding quality pluralistic studies. Through the M.A. program, rabbinical school, TALI Education Fund and Midreshet Yerushalayim, Schechter is meeting this demand, impacting on Israeli society with a comprehensive Jewish education program of the highest calibre.

2013 continues TALI’s phenomenal growth, adding 44 schools and pre-schools this fall. Over the last 10 years, TALI has more than doubled the number of its students, today reaching 42,000, representing over 10% of Israel’s secular school population. We are particularly indebted to the commitment of our strong leadership in helping us build a pluralistic Jewish education network for so many and especially to long-time supporters Susan and Scott Shay who this year provided a major gift to permanently name the Chief Executive position at TALI.

Last year, I wrote to you about a major gift from an anonymous Israeli family that would support our introduction of greater spirituality into TALI schools. Our first year of this program has just concluded on a high note as 28 educators completed coursework enabling them to teach this new subject in four pilot schools this fall.

The Schechter Institute awarded almost 100 graduates their Master’s degrees in June. They join 1170 other graduates from previous years in helping to spread our vision of pluralistic Judaism.

Our faculty continues to excel. During the year, we published six books and hosted more than ten conferences. This year we received a major endowment gift from another anonymous Israeli family to support faculty research in perpetuity. I am also pleased to announce that we established the Center for the Study of Bio-Social Perspectives on Judaism whose area of research is capturing the imagination of scholars throughout the world. In June, we held the 2nd Annual Conference on Judaism and Evolution. The lectures were taped and uploaded to YouTube and thousands of people have accessed them since the conference. To view the lectures, go to YouTube.com and search for “Judaism and Evolution Conference”.

At the Schechter Rabbinical Seminary, our Mishlei program which combines M.A. study at the Schechter Institute with the option of continuing on with rabbinical studies has been well-received. Our first two Mishlei students are now entering the ordination track of the program and we have accepted over 10 new students to begin Mishlei in the fall.

Midreshet Yerushalayim is our vehicle to provide Jewish education to Israeli adults. Last year, we opened our new Neve Schechter - Legacy Heritage Center for Jewish Culture in the Neve Zedek area of Tel Aviv. This year, we launched a full program of activities with over 3,000 people attending the various courses and events. In addition to Neve Schechter, we also opened four satellite “Batei Midrash” in the north of Israel in response to local demand. This year we officially launched an “Israeli Friends” of Schechter. It held its first programs in the spring and is busy planning next year’s calendar of events.

Lastly, under the rules of our Accréditor, the Israel Council for Higher Education (MALAG), the president of an accredited institution can only serve in that position for a maximum of 12 years. Rabbi Professor David Golinkin, who has led us with great success these past years, will have to step down from the presidency and return to the faculty as of October 2014. We have begun a worldwide search for a replacement and are happy at the level of response we have gotten as well as the quality of the candidates. We expect to announce the next President in early 2014 so as to allow time for a seamless transition to our new leadership. In December 2014, we will formally install our new President and honor David Golinkin for the indispensable role he has played for over a decade in shaping the direction of our institution. I invite you to participate in this historic milestone of the Schechter Institutes.

Thank you for your support of Schechter. I wish you a Happy and Healthy New Year.

Saul I. Sanders
Chairman of the Board
Schechter Institute of Jewish Studies
I am a firm believer in the well-known Hebrew aphorism -'
אין דבר העומד בפני כח הרצון'
"there is nothing that can withstand the power of the will" and in the aphorism penned by Herzl in his book Altneuland,

אם תרצו אинд אגדה
ואם לא תרצו אגדה היא אגדה תישאר
"If you will it, it is no legend;
and if you do not will it, a legend it is and a legend will it remain".

As the Schechter Institute approaches its 30th anniversary, it is worth reflecting on these aphorisms. When Schechter was founded with four rabbinical students in 1984, there was no reason to assume that it would succeed. There was no such thing as a “Rabbinical Seminary” in Israel. Indeed, attempts to found Orthodox Rabbinical Seminaries in Israel had failed in the 1930s and 1960s. Furthermore, there was little interest in Jewish Studies and Jewish education for the 80% of Israelis who sent their children to the secular public school system. Finally, there was no government funding for anyone willing to tilt at windmills and buck these trends.

Yet this year there will be close to 50,000 children and adults participating in the programs run by the four non-profits of the Schechter Institutes. Over 700 students of the Schechter Rabbinical Seminary and the Schechter Institute Graduate School will study at our beautiful new campus in Jerusalem. In addition, there will be 42,000 children in the TALI schools, 1,000 children and adults in Midreshet Yerushalayim Ukraine, a few thousand people in our Midreshet Yerushalayim branches for Hebrew and Russian speakers throughout Israel, and thousands of people at our new Neve Schechter campus in Tel Aviv.

Why have we succeeded beyond our wildest dreams and despite all obstacles which stood in our path? First and foremost, our mission of a Jewish education revolution for every Israeli Jew is exactly what the State of Israel needs today. This was evidenced by Dr. Ruth Calderon’s maiden speech as a member of Knesset in February 2013. A so-called secular woman stood up in the Knesset and said that the Talmud and Midrash and all of the literature which the Jewish people created during the past 2,000 years belong to every Israeli Jew and should be studied by every Israeli Jew, just as they study the Bible.

This, of course, is what we at Schechter have been saying and doing for almost 30 years. It is proven by the numerous thank-you letters we receive from our graduates which thank us for opening up the treasures of the Jewish book shelf to them. It is proven by the exponential growth of our programs such as TALI, which will add 14 schools and 42 preschools this fall, and by over 3,000 people who attended lectures and events at Neve Schechter in Tel Aviv in its very first year of operations. It is epitomized by Israel’s new Minister of Welfare, Meir Cohen, a Schechter graduate and former Mayor of Dimona, who came to see me in July. After explaining to me the huge impact which Schechter had on his life as a high school principal in Dimona, he asked: “What can I do to help you?”

The second reason for our success is people:
• the approximately 200 talented individuals who work for our four amutot – faculty, pedagogic supervisors, TALI rabbis, textbook writers, teachers and administrative staff – throughout Israel and Ukraine;
• the dedicated volunteers who serve on the Boards of the four non-profits and Schechter Institutes INC., spending countless hours ensuring that we are doing the best job possible;
• and last but not least, the generous donors who have supported us through thick and thin and enabled us to do all that we do, despite the fact that we get almost no support from the Israeli government.

May we continue to succeed and expand in the decades to come, so that every Israeli Jew knows as much about Rabbi Meir and Beruriah, Maimonides and Yehudah Halevi, the Gaon of Vilna and the Besht, as they do about King David and Ben Gurion.

David Golinkin
President
Jerome and Miriam Katzin Professor of Jewish Studies
Schechter Institute of Jewish Studies
MEIR COHEN
Minister of Social Welfare, member of the current 19th Knesset; 58; former high school principal and Mayor of Dimona; Schechter graduate, Class of ‘97; M.A. in Teaching Jewish Studies

Jewish Knowledge: On a recent visit to his alma mater, Israel’s Minister of Social Affairs broke into a large smile, declaring, “It feels like I’m returning home.” Meir Cohen completed his M.A. at Schechter while principal of the public high school in Dimona, a development town in the Negev, where he was born and raised. “What I remember most about Schechter was the sense of family and community that it transmitted freely to its students. The learning environment was never cold or cut-off from the realities of life in Israel.” Cohen adapted the Schechter approach at his high school, where as principal he always tried “to create a family-like atmosphere of intimacy and caring, coupled with an environment that was also educationally demanding.” He lauded Schechter’s small classes “that allowed us to relate to the material in a much more profound way than what was possible at a larger university, where I earned my B.A.”

Impact on Israeli Life: Cohen remembers coming to Schechter at a critical juncture in his life. “Schechter exposed me to a new type of Judaism that was accepting and open, where intellectual and spiritual quest was encouraged and where pluralistic thought was the norm.” He returned to his high school, committed to writing a five-unit (highest level) curriculum in Jewish Thought that the Ministry of Education accepted as a subject for final matriculation exams; first in his school, and later in a number of additional high schools. As Mayor of Dimona from 2003-2013, Cohen is noted for improving the economic and environmental conditions of the town. During his tenure, Dimona was voted one of the top 10 green cities in Israel. “Without a doubt, the knowledge and values that I received at Schechter have helped shape my worldview and the direction my life has taken,” says Cohen.

“in this time of deep religious divisiveness in Israel, the Schechter Institute symbolizes, more than any other place in this country, the possibility of differing views coming together under one roof to create an empowering Jewish experience.”

YOCHI BRANDES
Best-selling Israeli author and educator, 54; author of seven award-winning novels and a book of essays on biblical women; newspaper columnist; Schechter graduate, Class of ‘94

Jewish Knowledge: Yochi Brandes was born into a Hassidic family in Haifa. After leaving the Haredi world as a young adult, she went on to teach Bible in Israel’s secular public school system. Interested in a second degree, she looked for a place that would “respect my background and the world where I felt at home. I sought both meaning and spirituality. I also wanted to influence Israeli society.” The Schechter Institute was recommended to her. She decided to enroll, a decision she admits, was destined to change the course of her life. “My studies at Schechter reached the peak of intellectual activity. Those three years were the most meaningful in my life. I wouldn’t be who I am today without it,” she says.

Impact on Israeli Life: Brandes, initially fearing that novels on Judaism would alienate readers, focused her first five novels on Zionism, offering only small doses of religion as sub-text. Sensing that Israelis were hungry for Jewish content, she wrote Kings III, the story of King David and Michal, which she based on less-cited Biblical references, followed by Seven Mothers and Akiva’s Orchard. “My goal is to ‘open up’ an opaque and complicated Judaism and bring it to life for my readers. I want to offer a different, subversive reading of the Torah that spurs people to think and question.” Brandes is currently working on a novel about the Baal Shem Tov, written from his daughter’s viewpoint.

“The ‘first’ Zionist revolution was the greatest thing to happen to the Jewish people since the revolutionary genius of the Talmudic Sages. Zionism convinced us to stop waiting for the Messiah and to act.” Brandes, however, argues that the movement, in its zealousness,
rejected an entire chunk of Jewish history: the Diaspora, where the Jewish People, although dispersed, broke new ground in its religious development. "Today we are in the ‘second’ Zionist revolution. People understand that language, land, and Bible are not enough. It is imperative that Israel incorporate into its national narrative the treasure-trove of rabbinic knowledge that evolved after Bar Kochba until Israel’s Independence in 1948.”

"What did Schechter give me? ... the understanding that Jewish knowledge is relevant. When Prof. Moshe Greenberg z”l gave assignments, he wouldn’t merely ask for a summary, he would ask, ‘what are you taking from the reading into your lives?’”
NUMBERS 2012-13
- 673 students
- 56 faculty members
- 14 interdisciplinary M.A. tracks of Jewish Studies
- 98 graduates in 2013. 1275 total since 1992
- 6 books published

ACADEMIC NEWS
Large Endowment for Faculty Research
- A new anonymous endowment of $1,000,000 for faculty research, received in 2012, significantly enhances the institution’s academic standing and contributions to Jewish Studies research.

Schechter Leads in Numbers
- The Schechter Institute continues to uphold its #1 ranking as the largest M.A. program in Jewish Studies in the State of Israel. The program is respected nationwide, with students coming from over 130 Israeli cities and towns.

Emphasis on Recruitment
- 119 new students entered the M.A. program in 2012-2013, which includes 26 TALI teachers (up from 16 in 2011-12), 8 Mishlei students (M.A. and Bet Midrash program) and 10 Marpeh students (Health-care Chaplaincy). A full-time student recruiter was hired and new marketing ideas, including extensive use of social media networks and audio-visual materials have proven excellent tools.

Commencement Exercises Held in New Campus
- This year’s graduation ceremony took place in the Arnold and Pat Gittelson z”l English Courtyard of the new Schechter campus. 98 M.A. degrees were conferred on June 23, 2013, with three students graduating summa cum laude.

Liebhaber Prize for Religious Tolerance
- The 16th Annual Dr. Henia z”l and Rabbi Marc Liebhaber Prize for Religious Tolerance in Israel was awarded at the June graduation ceremony to journalist and media personality Dov Elbaum and to Kobi Oz, musician, author and social activist (see page 22).

Marpeh: Academics and Health-Care Chaplaincy
- The Marpeh program, now in its second year with a total of 27 students, confers CPE (Clinical Pastoral Education) certification with an M.A. degree in Family and Community Studies. The CPE supervised fieldwork offers pastoral care to chronically and terminally ill patients and their families in hospitals, nursing homes, outpatient clinics and schools. The first class of ten students completed the program in 2013, with an additional 17 students enrolled for 2013-14 classes. Students of this two-year pioneering program, founded by Dr. Einat Ramon, come from a wide spectrum of backgrounds including healthcare, community volunteers, teachers and rabbinal students, with religious observance ranging from secular to Reform, Masorti and modern Orthodox. Several Russian-speaking Israelis who joined the program this year are already engaged in essential work with the large and aging sector of immigrants from the FSU.

Art Exhibit Opens on the Mishnah
- Who knows six? ZMaN NaKaT, a new art exhibit that opened in the Rabbi Henry and Yetta Segal Art Atrium seeks to give visual expression to the six orders of the Mishnah. The artist, Dov Abramson, a Jerusalem designer and graphic artist, is completing his M.A. studies in Judaism and the Arts at Schechter.

New Fellowship for Evolution and Judaism
- The Schechter Institute, in cooperation with the Binah Yitzrit Foundation, is sponsoring a research fellow and offered two courses in the field of the evolutionary understanding of Jewish religious practice. In July 2013, the second international conference on Judaism in Evolutionary Perspective, organized by Dr. Paul Shrell-Fox, showcased the world’s top experts in the field to an audience of over 100 participants who attended the conference held in the new Jerusalem campus or watched “virtually” via a live video-stream.

SCHOLARSHIP NEWS
William Davidson Scholarships were awarded to all 119 first-year students. The Judge Simon Rifkind and Harry Meresman Scholarships for Outstanding Scholarship and Commitment to Jewish Pluralism, now in their 9th year, were awarded to five exceptional students; the Prof. Alice Shalvi Scholarships for Outstanding Students in Gender and Judaism and the Arts were awarded to two worthy

Chair, Board of Trustees Saul Sanders • Chair, Executive Committee Colette Avital
President Professor David Golinkin • Dean Dr. Doron Bar
Vice President for Finance and Administration Liat Citron • Vice President for Development Eitan Cooper
students and Scholarships for M.A. Students in the TALI Leadership Program were awarded to 18 outstanding TALI school teachers. Scholarships for teachers in Development Towns and underprivileged neighborhoods were awarded to 30 students. The Iranian American Jewish Federation Scholarship Award was given to three exceptional students studying in the M.A. program dedicated to Sephardic Jewry and Jews of Islamic Lands. Two Keren Kayemet L’Israel Scholarships were awarded for academic excellence and nine scholarships were given on the basis of financial need.

Library News • The library underwent an expansion allowing it to absorb a number of recent collections from the libraries of Dr. Ora Lifshitz; Prof. Moshe Greenberg z”l; Prof. Yosef Salmon; Shlomo Barer z”l; Prof. Shalom Paul, Rabbi Moshe Tutnauer z”l and the Frank-Lovell and Baker collections of Haggadot.

New acquisitions include:
- 400 different editions of Pirkei Avot (1800-2012) in memory of Rabbi Noah and Devorah Golinkin z”l, by David Golinkin
- A collection of scholarly books and journals from the library of Prof. Louis z”l and Shirley z”l Schoffman by Joshua and Shmuel Schoffman
- A collection of books on Sephardic Jewry and Jews in Arab countries from the library of Prof. Amnon Netzer z”l
- A vintage Hebraica collection from Congregation Rodfei Zedek, Chicago, IL, by Rabbi Elliot Gertel.

FACULTY NEWS

Kekst Faculty Fellowship • Dr. Doron Bar has been awarded the Kekst Fellowship for 2013-15. Appointed Dean of the Graduate School in 2012, Dr. Bar is a Senior Lecturer in the Land of Israel Studies track, has served as advisor to that track and is a prolific author and well-known lecturer on the subject.

Promotions • Dr. Ari Ackerman was promoted to Senior Lecturer in Jewish Thought and Jewish Education; Dr. Einat Ramon was promoted to Senior Lecturer in Jewish Thought and Jewish Women’s Studies.

Appointments • Dr. Tamar Kadar, lecturer in Midrash, is the new Advisor for Student Affairs;
Dr. Noa Hacham, lecturer in Land of Israel Studies, is the new academic advisor for Land of Israel Studies.

RESEARCH INSTITUTES

The Center for Judaism and the Arts includes the M.A. track in Judaism and the Arts and TALI’s Visual Midrash Electronic Archive - www.tali-virtualmidrash.org.il - from the Prof. Jo Milgrom Collection, with over 950 catalogued images of art related to Biblical subjects, offering cross-referenced descriptions in both English and Hebrew.

The Center for Women in Jewish Law enables 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: Responsa; Jewish Law Watch; Zarakat Dalot (The Cry of the Wretched): Halakhic Solutions for the Agunat of our Time; To Learn and To Teach; Ask the Rabbi, and Taking the Plunge: A Practical and Spiritual Guide to the Mikveh.

The Institute of Applied Halakhah publishes 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 a group of four veteran Jewish-Zionist educators, including TALI board member Varda Rafaeli z”l, serves as a catalyst for research, resource development and practical programming in the field.

The Center for the Study of Bio-social Perspectives on Judaism was established in 2010 to promote research in the field of evolution and Jewish religious practice. The center convenes an international conference bi-annually and sponsors two research fellowships.

1. Schechter graduate celebrates the moment. 2. A special class of Israeli police officers received degrees in Family and Community studies. 3. Graduation ceremony in the Arnold and Pat z”l Gittelson English courtyard. 4. Minister of Social Welfare MK Meir Cohen (a Schechter graduate) talks with Prof. David Golinkin during a visit to the new campus. 5. Students enjoying a new campus classroom. 6. Hebrew Literature class in the new Legacy Heritage Classroom Building. 7. The Status of Women in Israeli Society Annual Conference. From left: Sarah Teperberg, Tamar Ciechanover, Alice Shalvi, Esther Elam, Batshva Margalit Stern, Dalit Gafni and Noya Rimati. 8. Liebhaber Prize ceremony. From left: Colette Avital, Marc Liebhaber, David Golinkin and Dov Elbaum. 9. Dov Abramson explaining his artwork to David Golinkin in the new Rabbi Henry and Yetta Segal Art Atrium. 10. Creative writing classmates exhibit their works in the Robbins Family Entrance Atrium. 11. Dr. Andy Thomson speaking at the Judaism and Evolution Conference.
RABBI DIANA VILLA

Educator and social activist who uses her knowledge of Jewish Law to protect and advance the rights of agunot and their struggle to obtain a (divorce) get; Mishlei Program coordinator, Schechter Rabbinical Seminary; Senior Researcher, Schechter Institute Center for Women in Jewish Law; rabbinical ordination, 2000

Jewish Knowledge: Diana Villa learned from her grandfather, Rabbi Leo Jung, towering religious figure and one of the architects of American Orthodox Judaism, that leading an ethical life was the basis for all Jewish practice. “First be a moral person, then pray,” was the message we received at home. No distinctions were made between my brother, my sisters and myself. The same high expectations were applied equally,” she says.

Diana received an M.A. in philosophy from JTS. Drawn to the male-dominated (at that time) world of Talmud, she was admitted to an advanced Talmud class as a self-taught student. “I never had the opportunity to study Talmud and now was my chance.”

Impacting on Israeli Life: Diana, with her colleague Rabbi Monique Susskind-Goldberg z”l, published the seminal work on agunot, Zaakat Dalot (Cry of the Wretched): Halakhic Solutions for the Agunot of our Time, bringing together for the first time all halakhic solutions in one book. “If you don’t like one solution, you’ve got another to chose from. The problem is with the judges that don’t want to apply the laws because of the increasingly inflexible approach their teacher-mentors are staking out,” she explains. Diana also co-authored a five-part series, To Learn and to Teach, on the status of women in the synagogue based on Jewish law that is published in five languages.

Diana lectures to groups throughout the country and overseas on women’s rights. She sits on the steering committee of ICAR (International Coalition for Agunah rights) and has headed up its Jewish Law Committee. She teaches Talmud and Halakha to both rabbinical and M.A. students at Schechter. “In today’s world a woman can become the best doctor, lawyer or judge. Why should she not excel in Jewish life as well? I know our work is making a difference - allowing women to achieve this same status in Jewish Law.”

YONATAN DAHLEN

Interned this year at Kibbutz Hanaton, facilitating Jewish identity-building seminars; 27; JTS overseas student who spent the year at Schechter; will be coming back to Israel as a new immigrant

Jewish Knowledge: Yoni Dahlener grew up in a culturally Jewish home, but with little religious underpinnings. On a pre-med track at Augustana College, Sioux Falls, South Dakota, he opted for a course in philosophy and another in the study of religion because he reasoned “they’d be fun and easy.” These electives changed his life, setting him on a road that was intellectually and emotionally charged… yet far from “easy.” Yoni began to attend synagogue on campus, realizing that it was “possible to combine critical academic life...
“Everyone has their own moment that connects them to Israel. Climbing a mountain at sunrise. Seeing the Kotel. Hearing the Hebrew language. For me, it was experiencing the energy of this land.”

Rabbi Avi Novis-Deutsch

A new type of spiritual leader for Israel’s north; Rabbi of the Masorti Family Minyan, Kfar Vradim; Teacher at the Schechter Bet Midrash in Shlomi; 42; Lives in Kibbutz Hanaton with his family; Schechter rabbinical graduate, 2003

Jewish Knowledge: Rabbi Novis-Deutsch (left in picture) and his wife, Dr. Nurit Novis-Deutsch (also a Schechter graduate), recently returned to Israel following Nurit’s post-doc studies at Berkeley. They wasted no time in rolling up their sleeves and getting down to the business of Jewish education.

Impact on Israeli Life: Moving to Kibbutz Hanaton just one year ago with their three children, Rabbi Avi was offered the Masorti pulpit in the upper Galilee town of Kfar Vradim. The congregation has 85 families. Just as challenging was the call this year to form a study group in the small development town of Shlomi, close to the Lebanese border. The residents, mostly of North African descent, were accustomed to an Orthodox traditional approach to the texts. “But Rabbi Avi’s lessons are exactly what we were looking for,” says Avi Biton, Director of the Shlomi Community Center.

“I realized this population was very traditional in their world view, even if they themselves were not religiously observant,” says Avi. His approach was fluid, allowing the 20 group members to decide what topic each week’s session would address. Creating a type of “Ask the Rabbi” forum, the group covered a selection of topics ranging from Megillat Ha’atzmaut (Israel’s Declaration of Independence) to the Counting of the Omer. “It was important for me to create a warm and inviting environment; a place where curiosity, dilemmas and uncertainties could equally share the stage,” explains Avi. The group met six times this year. Enthused, they are looking forward to next year’s classes. After one year in Israel’s north and countless hours of teaching, listening, coaching and strengthening the Jewish connection, Avi has come to understand that ‘Judaism cannot come from the place of ‘I know what you need;’ but rather from the approach that, ‘if we bring our ideas together, we are creating a stronger Judaism.’”

“Most Israelis are extremely absorbed in the business of daily life. They term themselves as ‘secular,’ immediately erecting barriers against synagogue life and Jewish learning. Our challenge: to get them to relate seriously to their Judaism.”
Mishlei – Priming Students for the Rabbinate • Twelve students studied in the Mishlei program in 2012-13. Mishlei offers students a two-year program which meets two full days a week and combines traditional Bet Midrash study with an academic program leading to an M.A. in Jewish Studies from the Schechter Institute. The ordination program requires an additional three years of full-time study. Full rabbinical scholarships and stipends are available. One Mishlei graduate has finished a first year of rabbinic studies, with two additional Mishlei students accepted to rabbinic studies for Fall 2013.

New Marketing Campaign A full-time student recruiter was hired by Schechter in March 2013. This has resulted in the introduction of new marketing ideas, including extensive use of social media and the production of a recruitment film which have led to increased exposure of the program and an impressive number of applicants. Ten new Mishlei students will be accepted in 2013-14.

25th Silver “JUBilee” Ordination Rabbis Arnie Ben Dor and Chagit Dotan were ordained on March 8, 2013 in a special jubilee celebration in the new Harvey L. Miller Family Bet Midrash on the new Schechter Campus. To mark the special occasion, a number of graduates representing 25 years of ordination were honored guests. Rabbi Ben Dor has served as coordinator and spiritual leader of Jerusalem’s Kehillat Ya’ar Ramot for many years and as a spiritual care giver in the Assaf Harofe Hospital. Rabbi Dotan will be working as a TALI rabbi and Legacy Heritage Rabbinic Fellow working in Kehillat Moreshet Avraham in Jerusalem.

26th Ordination Ceremony Scheduled for May 2014
Four students will be ordained in spring 2014 in the Harvey L. Miller Family Bet Midrash on the new Schechter Campus. The ordainees will be: Yisrael Serok, involved in Jewish education in the community of Har Adar; Gustavo Gryncwajg, spiritual leader of the Ra’anan Kehillah in Ra’anan; Annabelle Herciger-Tenzer, working in healthcare chaplaincy; and Natalie Lastreger, Legacy Heritage Rabbinic Fellow working in Kehillat Moreshet Avraham in Jerusalem.

News from the Overseas Program
2012-13: Thirteen JTS students and four students from the Seminario Rabinico in Buenos Aires studied at Schechter this year. Two new courses on The State of Israel and Jewish History of the Second Temple Period combined class work with guided field tours, which were led by Eitan Cooper, Vice President for Development, who is also a licensed tour guide.

2013-14: Fifteen JTS rabbinical students and seven cantorial students will study at Schechter in 2013-14. As the international campus for Conservative Judaism, the study program will add a number of innovations including an experiential course taught by Rabbi Matt Berkowitz and “Israeli Encounters” – workshops developed to encourage dialogue between overseas students and their Israeli counterparts on substantive topics related to “the Israeli Experience, Leadership and the Rabbinate.” The Schechter rabbinical curriculum will also include an intensive Hebrew ulpan, Talmud, Halakhah, Midrash study and intern work in Masorti Kehillot and other Israeli non-profits.

JTS Cantorial Program to Reach High Note in Jerusalem • Seven JTS cantorial students will be spending their first year of professional studies at Schechter in a tailor-made program designed to tap into the rich array of Jewish/Hebrew liturgical sources found in Israel, immerse them in the Hebrew language and also enable them to benefit from the strong academic program offered to rabbinical students. Additional professional sessions to be held at the Hebrew Union College and a private music studio will augment studies at Schechter.

Seminario Students Praise Schechter Learning • Four rabbinical students from the Seminario Rabinico in Buenos Aires completed their rabbinic studies with a final year or semester at Schechter. Yonatan Szewkis Sabah is associate rabbi in Comunidad Shalom in Sao Paulo, Brazil; Gustavo Kelmeszes is associate rabbi in Comunidad Israelita, Santiago, Chile; Ariel Sigal is in charge of youth programs, Comunidad Israelita, Santiago, Chile; and Gershon Kwasniewski, not yet ordained, is leader of “SIBRA,” the Jewish community in Porto Alegre, Brazil.

Chair, Board of Governors Rabbi Professor Hanan Alexander
Chair, Executive Committee Ilana Laderman Mushkin • Dean Rabbi Shlomo Tucker
2012-13 INITIATIVES
Schechter-Masorti-Legacy Heritage Partner 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 third and final year of Legacy-sponsored activity with growing membership rolls and on-going Shabbat and holiday programming. A new Legacy-sponsored program was launched this year for rabbinical student internships in two kehillot: Natalie Lastreger in Jerusalem’s Kehillat Moreshet Avraham and Naomi Dar in Haifa’s Kehillat Moriah.

Omer’s Kehillat Magen Avraham Welcomes Students • Dikla Druckman, together with Mishlei colleague Yerachmiel Meirsdorf, traveled to Kehillat Magen Avraham in Omer, where they led the Bar/Bat Mitzvah class, directed the “Yula” extra-curricular Jewish studies program for 1st-3rd grade children held at the synagogue and taught the “Transitions” program for 6th graders at the Omerim elementary School. The internships will continue in these locations in 2013-14.

Chaplancy Program Certifies 35 in Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE) • Seven years ago, Schechter pioneered the first accredited chaplaincy program in Israel with Cecil Asekoff, the National Association of Jewish Chaplains and Rabbi Zohara Davidovich-Farkash, Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital. The program, which merged with the M.A. program Marpeh in 2012-13, is part of a large-scale effort spearheaded by the UJA Federation of New York to develop health-care chaplaincy in Israel. 35 chaplains have been certified by the National Association of Jewish Chaplains through this trail-blazing program.

Chaplancy Graduates Serving in Masorti Communities • An impressive number of Schechter-ordained rabbis are today serving as spiritual care givers in their Masorti kehillot, including Rabbis Dubi Haiyun (Haifa), Michal Schwartz (Petach Tikvah), Yoav Ende (Hanaton) and Michael Even David (Karmiel). Rabbi Hanna Kleibansky founded a new organization, “Zimrat-Ya”, which trains Russian-speakers in spiritual care. Two other graduates, Rabbis Valerie Stessin and Miriam Berkowitz established “Kashouvet” which provides spiritual care in the healthcare system and in nursing homes. Rabbi Arnie Ben Dor is working at the Assaf Harofe Hospital.

Mishlei Student Brings World of Piyyut to Schechter • The melodic and colorful tradition of Shirat Habakashot - a set of piyyutim (Jewish liturgical poems) sung during the winter months - was brought to Schechter in November 2012 as part of a day-long Schechter-sponsored conference organized by Mishlei student Yossi Ohana. Ohana founded Kehillot Shorot (Singing Communities) in 2002, which is renewing interest in the rich cultural contribution of piyyutim from Jewish communities of North Africa and other Arab countries.

RA Convention Limmud at Schechter
The Rabbinical Assembly delegates in Israel for their annual convention were treated to academic study sessions at Schechter, preceded by morning prayers in the new Harvey L. Miller Family Bet Midrash.

RA Podcasts Showcase Schechter Scholarship • Rosh Hodesh “Podcasts” (audio broadcasts) to RA members around the world showcased three Schechter faculty members: Prof. Moshe Benovitz, Dr. Paul Shrell-Fox and Rabbi Shlomo Tucker, who joined colleagues from JTS and the Ziegler Rabbinical School in providing the monthly lectures.

SRS Grads Make Good TALI Rabbis • Schechter-ordained rabbis are integrally involved in helping shape the Jewish learning experience in TALI schools including Rabbis Liron Levy (Neve Hana boarding school); Chaya Baker (Kehillat Ramot Zion, TALI Frankel School); Mauricio Balter (Kehillat Eshel Avraham, Beersheva, Amirim TALI School); Gustavo Surazski (Kehillat Netzach Yisrael, Ashkelon, five TALI kindergartens); Roberto Arbib (Kehillat Neve Zedek, Magen School); Elishah Wolfin (Kehillat Vahavta, Zichron Ya’akov, twenty TALI schools throughout Israel).

FACULTY NEWS
Rabbi Dr. Harvey Meirovich, veteran member of the Schechter faculty and past Dean of the Schechter Rabbinical Seminary retired in summer of 2013. His impressive academic and administrative achievements over the years contributed greatly to the growth and success of the rabbinical school. Rabbi Liron Levy, SRS graduate, will coordinate both the Overseas Students Program and the Legacy Rabbinic Intern Program in 2013-14; Rabbi Diana Villa will continue as Coordinator for the Mishlei Program.
JEWISH IMPACT: TALI EDUCATION FUND

BAT ELLA BIRNBAUM

Touching thousands of Israeli children, their parents and teachers with a profound Jewish experience through music; 47; TALI music specialist, recording artist and performer

Jewish Knowledge: Bat Ella Birnbaum exudes beauty, warmth and passion. The sparkle in her eyes alone could ignite an audience. She grew up in the Negev development town of Dimona, in the folds of a warm Syrian/Persian family of four brothers and sisters whose Judaism was based more on a rich musical experience than in attending synagogue. “Each one of us had our own small booklet with Sephardi piyutim (liturgical poems) and we sang from them on Shabbat, all holidays and special occasions,” she fondly remembers.

Bat Ella’s spiritual journey would take her to the U.S.: first, as a teenager with the “Israeli Scouts Caravan” that sang its way through 22 states and 110 performances. “This was my first taste of American Judaism…and I liked it,” smiles Bat Ella. After army service in the IDF Performance Troupe, she spent a summer at Camp Ramah Palmer, working as the camp’s music specialist. She would return to the U.S. a few times with her future husband, Daniel Birnbaum, today CEO of Sodastream and a member of the Schechter Institute Board. Based in Cincinnati, they became active in the Adath Israel Congregation. Bat Ella worked in a variety of positions in the community. With the support of the Kim and Gerry Haiman Foundation, she developed the “I Pray” Project to make prayer more engaging for American students. And so, Bat Ella’s music career was launched and ripe for an Israeli debut.

Impacting on Israeli Life: Bat Ella introduced her first musical program, Niggunei Rosh Hodesh, in 2003 in one TALI school and two pre-schools. Today, in TALI alone, her Jewish music programming reaches 8,000 children, more than 1,000 teachers and 5,000 parents. “With music, the sky is the limit,” she beams. "It’s not only the music experience. We’ve evolved into a ‘Total Experience’ that includes movement, singing, storytelling, ceremony and commentaries,” she explains. “Our meeting-point today is much more enriching than in the beginning. I see the process my audience goes through. It starts with a bit of embarrassment and discomfort. Next passivity. And finally, the participants give way to the melody, get involved and actually set the tone, making each engagement unique.”

Bat Ella’s talents have allowed her to tap into Israel’s huge “middle ground,” helping thousands to define their Jewish-Israeli identity. “TALI says ‘there is more than one way to be a Jew.’ This credo has empowered me to develop my Jewish identity and in turn, take others with me on this spiritual journey,” she sums up.

“Music possesses an inexplicable power. I can try and explain a certain text until I’m ‘blue in the face.’ The minute I sing it – it takes on an entirely different dimension that speaks a stronger language. This language does not threaten. It embraces.”
TALI MUSIC PROGRAM: REACHING A NATION THROUGH SONG

Bat Ella Celebrates a Decade with TALI 2003-2013

In the ten years that Bat Ella Birnbaum has worked with the TALI Education Fund, she has "grown" a small music program into a national phenomenon – demonstrating the remarkable power that music has in transmitting Jewish values and knowledge. Through niggunim music workshops for schools, teacher-training seminars and most recently, the wildly successful Choir Festivals Program, music has proven to be a winning educational tool. “The emotional-spiritual experience that emanates from song and music is something you just can't replicate in standard study,” says Bat Ella.

Niggunim Music Workshops
Music workshops have had great success in introducing Kabbalat Shabbat and the daily service through the joy of singing. Bat Ella, with the TALI Education Fund, has produced Yachad B’T’filah, a siddur and three-disk musical accompaniment for early grades that is used extensively in Israel and also overseas. Themes revolve around the Hebrew calendar, the Jewish life cycle, prayer and other values-based topics.

TALI Choir Festivals
If success can be judged by numbers, than the TALI music Festival wins hands down. Almost tripling the number of participating schools and pupils in just three years, the Festival has become a formative group experience for the TALI community. In 2012-13, 1300 children in 36 schools participated in the Shirat Halev - Song of the Heart Festival. The program strengthens school music programs, fosters solidarity within the TALI network and expands the Jewish musical repertoires and activity of TALI schools. “Music is the great equalizer. It does not intimidate, but rather, brings people together on the same plane.”

"In 2003, I brought a song to TALI and it has evolved into a full-length symphony,” smiles Bat Ella. “We are witnessing slow but steady transformative change emanating from the schools and flowing directly into the home. As children share the spirit of music with their parents and siblings, they are planting the seeds of a vibrant Jewish experience. Every morning I wake up with “Modeh Ani” on my lips as I witness this flowering of Jewish life and know that my work is playing a role in this process.”
TALI SCHOOL EXPANSION EXCEEDS ALL FORECASTS

The TALI school network has recorded unprecedented growth in the past four years, surpassing annual growth estimates. With TALI schools comprising well over 10% of all elementary schools in the secular public school system, the network is by far the largest provider of pluralistic Jewish studies and values education in Israel; this at a time when other organizations have entered the field with similar programs, including the Ministry of Education’s “Israeli Culture” program. In September 2013, 14 additional schools and 42 pre-schools will join the TALI Network.

2012-13 NUMBERS

- 212 schools and pre-schools, including 6 new schools and 34 pre-school classes
- 39,000 children
- 8 TALI School Counselors worked in 55 schools, guiding curriculum development and providing ongoing pedagogical counseling to 1,200 teachers
- 11 TALI Counselors worked in 60 pre-schools
- 40 participants in two-year TALI Educational Leadership Program, including largest class ever of 26 first-year students! The participants, teachers and principals studied one full day a week and participated in two 3-day seminars
- 20 TALI Leadership Program graduates completed their M.A. degree in Jewish Studies at Schechter
- 12 TALI rabbis and music specialists conducted over 350 workshops in 50 schools and pre-schools (see page 12)
- 26 teacher training seminars for TALI teachers in 14 new TALI schools and 15 veteran schools
- Monthly meetings of the TALI Principals’ Forum in 9 venues and a 3-day seminar for 50 TALI principals and coordinators from 40 TALI schools
- Over 35,000 TALI textbooks purchased for a total of $350,000 in book sales

INITIATIVES 2012-13

Investing in Early Childhood Education as Demand Soars

Demand for TALI pre-school education has skyrocketed throughout Israel, with 75 pre-schools joining TALI in 2012 and 2013. Most of the pre-schools feed into TALI schools, and in cases where there is no TALI school, the pre-school acts as a catalyst for establishing a TALI school in that area.

Over 3200 children were enrolled in 126 TALI pre-schools and kindergartens in 22 cities and towns all over Israel. In response to these impressive gains, the TALI Education Fund has hired a full-time Director, Shira Ackerman, an expert in early childhood educational programming, to oversee 1) an expanded staff of early childhood pedagogical counselors 2) the building of a 3-year development program 3) the development of new educational resources to meet the challenges of running a network of hundreds of pre-schools.

TALI SPIRITUAL EDUCATION: TALKING A NEW LANGUAGE

In 2012, the TALI Education Fund opened the Institute for Applied Research and Advancement of Spiritual Education in TALI Schools. 2012-13 activities included:

- Neshama Yiteira (An Extra Soul), an intensive 3-semester seminar providing educators with the tools needed to deepen the impact of TALI education and nurture in children a sense of wonder and mindfulness. The group of 28 educators, including TALI principals and teachers and a number of rabbis, learned about new trends and research in spiritual education, and practiced guided imagery and meditative techniques in weekly sessions.

2013-14: Pilot programs will be launched in four TALI schools • A think-tank from the Van Leer Institute, comprised of leading experts in the field of spiritual education and headed by Prof. Hanan Alexander, began compiling research for a comprehensive data base for this new and exciting field • An internet site – www.talispiritualeducation.org.il - was launched in Hebrew and English to showcase the research group’s findings and latest articles on the subject.

TALI Teachers Take the Prize(s)!

The Devorah and Shraga Genger Prize for Excellence in TALI Education was awarded in December 2012 to Irit Rapp, Principal of the Pisgat Ze’ev North School in Jerusalem, and to two kindergarten teachers in Eilat, Orit Asayag and Mazal Ben Hamo. The Nofei Haselah School in Ma’ale Adumim received the Outstanding School Award. The Genger Prize marked just the beginning for TALI and the national accolades its educators garnered in 2012-13:
• TALI Nofei Sela, Ma’ale Adumim took first place in a national competition for the “Israeli Culture” Award.

2013 Genger Prize winner for best kindergarten teacher, Eliat, won her city’s Education Prize for Best Teacher.

- Natan Kaplan, 8th grader, TALI Masorti High School, Jerusalem, took first place in a national competition on Sayings of the Fathers.

- TALI Amirim School Beersheva received an Award of Excellence for its Jewish-Zionist-Civics Educational Program.

- Shalom Terem, Principal of the TALI Alona School, received the TALI prize for Life Achievement and national prizes for educational excellence.

- Maya Cohen, 5th grader, TALI Givat Ze’ev School, took 1st place in the town’s Bible Competition.

TALI Choir Festivals: A Musical “Hit”
The Shirat HaLev (Song of the Heart) 3rd Annual TALI Choir Festival, organized by TALI Music Director Bat Ella Birnbaum, has nearly tripled in size since the first performances in 2011.

This year, 1300 children, representing 36 TALI school choirs participated in five regional festivals. An expanded musical repertoire included school orchestras and dance troupes.

(see profile, page 13).

TALI Takes to the Fields with Leket
TALI’s Leket project, which most effectively demonstrates TALI’s values-centered education, involved 21 TALI schools, reaching some 1400 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 and leaving a corner of the fields for the poor), discussing issues of hunger and poverty today and picking unharvested crops which are then distributed to needy families.

Hanaton Bar-Bat Mitzvah Program
Over 1,100 sixth graders from 18 TALI schools travelled to Kibbutz Hanaton where Schechter graduate Rabbi Yoav Ende and his staff of facilitators conduct a two-day educational odyssey that uses the milestone of a Bar/Bat Mitzvah in the building of Jewish identity, incorporating Jewish history, literature and values.

TALI TEXTBOOK INITIATIVES
TALI Goes Digital Seven TALI books were offered in a digital format to schools who purchased the print version. Digital-TALI books offer inter-active lesson plans and links to other related educational sites; TALI “Values Kits” for parent-child study are now available online.

Friends Across the Sea • Available in Hebrew and in a new English edition, the book teaches Jewish peoplehood to 5th and 6th graders.

- JETS (Jewish Educational Technologies), together with TALI staff, are building an online platform for the book that will facilitate greater Israel-Diaspora dialogue. The project will be dedicated to the memory of TALI Board member Ms. Varda Raphaeli z”l who was instrumental in bringing this project to fruition.

New Books • Receiving the Torah: Designed to enrich the 1st grade Siddur ceremony with a teacher’s guide • Holiday Books for 4th and 5th Grades • New editions of these popular TALI books will carry the Ministry of Education seal of approval.

In development:

- Bar/Bat Mitzvah curriculum based on a successful workshops conducted in several TALI schools in the north • A Family Haggadah with creative resource materials for the Seder.

2012-13 PROJECT UPDATES
TALI Leadership Development Program
Participants learn in the program which develops competent and professional educational leaders, 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 most of them completing the Master’s Degree Program in Jewish Studies at the Schechter Institute.

Dialogue and Identity: Working at Co-existence • The Dialogue and Identity Project completed its 7th successful year operating in 14 schools, 7 Jewish TALI schools and 7 Arab schools from the MENA Catholic Network.

Altogether, 451 children (grades 5 and 8) participated in the program based on the Three Religions in the Holy Land curriculum. The program’s key to success lies in empowering the teachers to lead the educational program themselves, which is based on multi-cultural meetings and experiences.

NEW PROGRAMS IN 2013-14
TALITON, TALI’s first nation-wide newspaper, will begin publication in print and online editions, reaching 30,000 children through subscription • Shabbat Yachad weekend retreats will be conducted for TALI families

- Mini-holiday camps in TALI schools will coincide with school holidays, i.e. Sukkot, Chanukah and Pesach, when many parents work.
RABBI DUBI HAIYUN

Guiding force in the establishment of a network of Bet Midrash in Israel’s north; 51; Rabbi of Haifa’s Kehillat Moriah and director of its Midreshet HaCarmel learning center; President, Rabbinical Assembly - Israel; Schechter rabbinical graduate, 2009

Jewish Knowledge: Rabbi Dubi Haiyun, dynamic spiritual leader of Kehillat Moriah in Haifa, spent a day at a regional workshop for Community Center directors in Israel’s north last year. The decision to attend was fortuitous. The directors he met with voiced a deep desire to expand their Jewish culture agenda. Rabbi Haiyun had the perfect model to offer them: his Midreshet HaCarmel Bet Midrash in Haifa, which has been running for four years, enriching the Jewish cultural life of hundreds. From weekly Talmud classes to a monthly Spiritual Caregivers Seminar whose participants take the practical training to senior citizen homes in Haifa – the Bet Midrash weekly calendar represents the best of Jewish learning and social action.

Impacting on Israeli Life: Responding to the call, Rabbi Haiyun, in partnership with Midreshet Yerushalayim, set up three Schechter Learning Centers in Ramat Yishai (affiliated with a local Masorti congregation), Kfar Tabor and Shlomi. They join Karmiel’s thriving Midreshet HaKerem located at the Masorti Kehillat HaKerem. “The Bet Midrash program we offer must be authentically Israeli; meaning it fuses the Givatron Singers (legendary Eretz Yisrael choir) with Beethoven; liturgical poems from the Levant with Mahler,” says Haiyun. The recipe seems to be working. Additional Learning Centers are scheduled to open in Kiryat Bialik and Yavniel in Fall 2013.

NEVE SCHECHTER-LEGACY HERITAGE CENTER FOR JEWISH CULTURE

The new campus in Tel Aviv’s historic Neve Zedek neighborhood attracted over 3,000 participants in its first year; nearly 8,000 have visited the Neve Schechter website and over 800 are Facebook fans.

Jewish Knowledge: The Neve Schechter-Legacy Heritage Center for Jewish Culture officially opened in September 2012 with 600 guests filling the Simha and Sara Lainer Bet Midrash, Atid Sanctuary, Jacob and Janet Farber Courtyard, classrooms and galleries in a two-day happening that brought this beautifully restored Templer building to life. A similar event kicked off 2nd semester programs in February 2013. During the year, Jewish learning – from courses on spirituality, Jewish art, and philosophy taught by Schechter faculty and other influential Israeli cultural figures, to plays on Shabbat and the Actors’ Bet Midrash theatre about the Book of Jonah – flourished at Neve Schechter. “Neve Schechter has created a new model that suits the culture of Tel Aviv; open to contemporary Judaism and the language of today, but also deeply connected to tradition. Neither is rejected; we are working with both,

”There is no one absolute truth.’ That is the maxim that guides learning at the Schechter Learning Centers. We are creating an intellectual and spiritual house of study where not only all are welcome, but more importantly, their ideas are welcome.”
which is rare,” states Rabbi Roberto Arbib, educational director of Neve Schechter and spiritual leader of the Masorti Congregation of Neve Tzedek.

Impact on Israeli Life: Neve Schechter today plays an integral role in the cultural life of Tel Aviv and beyond. The Center’s impressive program attracted hundreds of participants weekly to its full calendar of lectures, concerts, films, classes, holiday celebrations and services, discussions and art exhibitions. A number of exciting joint programming initiatives with Beit Hillel, the German Embassy, the Neve Zedek Community Center, Hebrew Nature and other organizations enriched Neve Schechter’s offering of Jewish-Israeli cultural events. “We transformed an empty building into a living center that people come back to repeatedly and have significant experiences in. This year, we built a base for the future,” sums up Center director Orly Dabush-Nitzan.

“Neve Schechter is like Mea She’arim (Hebrew for ‘100 gates,’) because we enable everyone to enter the Jewish world through whichever gate he or she prefers.”
Rabbi Roberto Arbib

SHABBAT IN NEVE ZEDEK

A children’s play inspired by the weekly Torah Portion is attracting dozens of families to the Masorti Congregation of Neve Tzedek; Actress Irit Sopran studies the Torah portion with SRS graduate Rabbi Roberto Arbib and then writes and produces an original play for the congregation’s youngest members.

Jewish Knowledge: Irit Sopran, a graduate of the Nissan Nativ Actors’ School in Tel Aviv, has always felt a strong connection to Jewish tradition, and so creating a children’s program for Shabbat was a natural step for her. “I am part of secular Israeli society, but am not exactly secular because my Jewish roots and faith are important to me.” After reading extensively in preparation for the bi-monthly performance, Irit brings the idea for a play to Rabbi Roberto Arbib. The two enter a type of “artistic chevruta” which always bears fruit. Devoting much effort to developing the characters’ voices, movement and behavior enables Irit to switch from one character to another. “It is exhilarating to watch the process unfold as the kids start to ‘experience’ the plot and its message. They see that they can relate to the Torah after all,” shares Irit.

Impact on Israeli Life: Thirty to forty families regularly attend the Shabbat performance; many from Neve Zedek, but also from Holon, Herzliya, Petah Tikva, Jerusalem, and Kochav Yair. Parents often sit beside their children, developing a sense of community between themselves. Adir Waldman, a Neve Zedek resident and member of the kehillah, played a key role in getting the program off the ground. “I wanted to give my children the same love of Judaism that I received from my parents,” he explains. Irit always ends the program with Kiddush, inviting everyone into the synagogue for the end of Sabbath morning services. “The play allows me to give the children something of value. Who knows? The Torah wisdom we are sharing today just might accompany them into a synagogue as an adult; or help them through a challenging situation in the future,” she sums up.

“Families who would never have thought to enter a synagogue on Shabbat are coming to Neve Zedek for Irit’s performances. Her exceptional talent is showing the children that Judaism is theirs for the taking.”
Rabbi Roberto Arbib, rabbi of the Masorti Congregation of Neve Tzedek and educational director of Neve Schechter
Neve Schechter: The Place in Tel Aviv for Jewish Culture

The Neve Schechter – Legacy Heritage Center for Jewish Culture officially opened in September 2012. In just a year’s time, it has earned a reputation for non-stop high level Jewish-Israeli cultural programming, where Jewish texts are encountered, all in an inclusive, egalitarian and open environment. Over 3,000 people attended theatre, music and film events as well as courses ranging from “The Poetic Theology of Franz Kafka” to “Creative Talmud.” A well-coordinated marketing and PR campaign utilized local media, social networks, internet and advertising to brand the Center and build a loyal following. (For more on Neve Schechter, see pp. 16-17).

Rabbi Roberto Arbib, rabbi of the Masorti congregation of Neve Tzedek and educational director at Neve Schechter, was instrumental in creating the Center’s rich and varied programming. Orly Dabush-Nitzan, whose impressive educational and administrative skills were essential in the successful launch of Neve Schechter is leaving her position after two years to accept a Jewish education emissary position in New York. We wish Orly much success in her next challenge and welcome Yonit Koleb-Raznitzky who will succeed Orly. Yonit comes to the position with a rich background in running Jewish outreach centers.

Haifa’s Midreshet HaCarmel Sparks Three Satellite Schechter Centers through the efforts of its spiritual leader Schechter graduate Rabbi Dubi Haiyun. As director of Midreshet HaCarmel, the Bet Midrash of Kehillat Moriah in Haifa and in response to an increased interest in Jewish learning, Rabbi Haiyun has opened three “mini-Batei Midrash” in the northern communities of Ramat Yishai, Kfar Tabor and Shlomi (see profile, page 16).

In Midreshet HaCarmel in Haifa, 160 participants took part in 11 weekly or twice-monthly classes. In addition to classes, Rabbi Haiyun organizes study trips around Jewish themes. Some of the more popular courses include a Women’s Rosh Hodesh Group for Russian-speaking immigrants, a Mother and Daughter Bat Mitzvah class and Introduction to Kabbalah. Additional one-time workshops are planned around the holidays. A Hebrew ulpan which offered Hebrew classes and basic Judaism entered its 3rd year with more than 20 participants. 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.

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 second year in Karmiel, created a varied curriculum at Midreshet Hakarem in 2012-13.

The Bet Midrash, in partnership with the Masorti synagogue, drew over 135 participants on a weekly basis to six courses given in Hebrew, Spanish and Russian. Special one-time events included a lecture by author and Schechter graduate Yochi Brandes (see profile, page 5) with 85 participants, and a lecture by Prof. David Golinkin with 60 participants.

**NUMBERS AND PROGRAMS 2012-13**

- 56 Jewish studies courses were conducted for Russian speakers and the general Israeli public in twelve cities including Jerusalem, Tel Aviv, Haifa, Karmiel, Nesher, Upper Nazareth, Ramat Yishai, Kfar Tabor, Shlomi, Maale Adumim, Ashdod and Eilat with over 1500 participants
- 7 MILI clubs are attracting over 200 young Russian-speaking immigrants to weekly intellectual quiz games that provide an introduction to Jewish subjects
- 3 MILI National Competitions took place on Hanukkah, Purim and Jerusalem Day, drawing 150 game enthusiasts each time, with “virtual” participation from Ukraine
- 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 Epigraphy: Ancient Manuscripts, Alphabets and Epigraphic Inscriptions
FOCUS ON KIEV: Jewish Community Building • Schecter-ordained Rabbi Reuven Stamov has been very successful in attracting new members to Kiev’s recently established Kehillat Masoret - so much so, that the group was forced to move to larger premises before the High Holidays in order to accommodate its expanding roster of new families. Stamov was officially installed in July 2012 as the first Masorti/Conservative rabbi in Ukraine. With 80,000 Jews in Kiev, Reuven’s arrival as rabbi of Kehillat Masoret and educational director of the Midreshet Yerushalayim/Masorti Olami Center for Jewish Education and Culture in Kiev, is a welcome development. Together with his wife Lena, a Jewish educator, he has instituted an impressive program of formal and informal studies, co-sponsored by Masorti Olami.

Kiev Center Offers a Wealth of Programming • Kabbalat Shabbat every Friday followed by services, a meal and singing • 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, Bet Midrash, Hebrew Ulpan, Teen Program for Leadership Training, Jewish Arts and Crafts workshops, Israeli Dance Classes • Special holiday events for Passover, Israel Independence Day, Shavuot and the High Holidays

Conversion Class • 25 people attended a weekend seminar in November 2012 led by Rabbi Stamov for Ukrainian Jews seriously considering conversion. He continued with a year-long course to prepare these candidates (many of whom are active members of the kehillah) for conversion. A Masorti Bet Din will welcome these converts to the Jewish People.

Towards 2013-14: • An egalitarian Bar-Bat Mitzvah class is planned which will prepare the children for reading from the Torah; Marom Student Club for university students to meet weekly with discussions on contemporary Jewish issues; Shabbat study twice a month to be taught by Rabbi Stamov and guest lecturers.

Bet Chernowitz Attracts MY Young Leaders • Graduates of a solid Jewish education received in the Chernowitz TALI Day School and Camp Ramah-Ukraine founded Bet Chernowitz two years ago. Today the community boasts 100 members. Programming includes family workshops on Jewish themes two afternoons a week, a monthly Kabbalat Shabbat, on-going lectures for the parents, a weekly training course for Camp Ramah counselors, and holiday celebrations.

NUMBERS AND PROGRAMS 2012-13 • 1,000 children and their families participated in Midreshet Yerushalayim programs, the only Conservative Jewish educational network in the former Soviet Union, in the following frameworks:
• TALI Family Education Centers in Kiev, Donetsk, Berdichev and Chernowitz, with Cherkassy and Nikolaiyev Family Centers receiving pedagogical support • Chernowitz TALI Day School, 320 pupils with a full Jewish studies program • Kharkov Lyceum, with 120 students (grades 1-10) • Kiev Family Education Center programming seven days a week, attracting 200 participants weekly (see description above)
• 21st Annual Ramah-Ukraine Summer Camp: 130 children and 35 staff enjoyed a 10-day Jewish adventure which focused on social justice and creating a better world.
• A Ramah Family Mini-camp took place during Chanukah 2012 with of 23 families (70 participants) from Kiev, Berdichev, Kharkov and Chernowitz. Co-sponsored by Masorti Olami, programming tackled the dilemma of assimilation while activities focused on Chanukah customs performed at home.
• The Rabbi David Clayman Memorial Resource Library continues to be the focus of educational activities at the Kiev Center, where it is utilized extensively for the Center’s Jewish studies curriculum.
• A five-day training seminar for 50 teachers and camp counselors took place in July 2013. The respected learning retreat enables Jewish educators to increase their Jewish knowledge, receive the didactic tools to convey this knowledge and build professional bridges of solidarity. Over the years, dozens of local teachers in Ukraine have been enriched by this intensive week-long experience.

MILI UKRAINE ON THE MAP
The newest MILI club to open in Ukraine - the “Café and Hebrew Club” - is located in Odessa. Midreshet Yerushalayim Leadership graduate Leonid Kantor has created a rich cultural program that offers, in addition to regular MILI competitions based on Jewish knowledge, holiday event programming and the “Café and Hebrew” club that meets regularly as a social club and Hebrew ulpan.
Conferences and Lectures Sponsored by Schechter

- 16th World Congress of Jewish Studies, Fourteen Schechter faculty members presented papers, July 2013 (see page 21).
- Judaism in Evolutionary Perspective, 2nd annual academic conference, co-sponsored by the Binah Yitzrit Foundation, July 2013
- International Convention of the Rabbinical Assembly, Study at Schechter, June 2013
- 1,000 BCE-2013: Women Defy Expectations, 14th National Masorti Women’s Study Day, June 2013
- Two-day conference on Aggadah and Midrash in memory of Prof. Yonah Frankel z”l, co-sponsored by Ben Gurion University, organized by Dr. Tamar Kadari, May 2013
- “Censorship throughout the Ages” Conference, chaired by Prof. Guy Miron, with four Schechter faculty members delivering lectures, Mercaz Shazar, May 2013
- Fifth Annual Jerusalem Conference, co-sponsored by Keren Kayemet L’Yisrael and Schechter’s Land of Israel Studies M.A. Track, May 2013
- 30th Annual Study Evening in memory of Prof. Saul Lieberman with Profs. David Golinkin and Meir Bar-Ilan, Bar Ilan University, March 2013
- Inaugural event of the Israel Friends of Schechter, featuring 2013 Liebhaber Prize winners, Kobi Oz and Dov Elbaum, held in the Harvey L. Miller Family Bet Midrash, February 2013
- Three Annual Masorti Regional Women’s Study Days, February 2013
- The Burden of a Double Profession-Israeli Women in the Work Force, eighth annual academic conference on The Status of Women in Israeli Society, in memory of Board Member Atara Ciechanover z”l, November 2012
- Shirat Habakashot: The Song of Entreaty, Conference on Piyutim (Jewish Liturgical Poems), Schechter Rabbinical Seminary, Annual Rabbi David Aronson Memorial Symposium, November 2012
- Iconoclasm in Eretz Yisrael in the Byzantine period, Dr. NaHaCham, Fall Faculty Meeting, October 2012

Outreach

The Goldstein-Golinkin Adult Education Program continues to bring Torah Lishma to Masorti communities throughout Israel. A summary of the learning outreach: Seventeen Schechter lecturers, Neve Schechter Center for Jewish Culture, Schechter Land of Israel Studies M.A. Track, May 2013

- Prof. David Golinkin, Kehillat Moriah, Haifa, Jewish Law: Coping with Changing Times, April 2013 • Dr. Shula Laderman, Kehillat Eshel Avraham, Beersheva, The Sense of Time (Past, Present and Future) in the Life of the Jews in the Middle Ages as Reflected in Illuminated Haggadot, March 2013 • Prof. Yossi Turner, Kehillat Ramot Zion, Jerusalem, three-part lecture series on Social Justice in Modern Jewish Thought, February 2013 • Dr. Alexander Even-Chen, Kehillat Ra’anana, Between Heschel and Buber: In honor of the Publication of his book, January 2013
- Prof. David Golinkin, Midreshet Hakarem and Kehillat Hakarem, Karmiel, Women in Jewish Law, 1845-2010, January 2013 • Dr. Doron Bar, Kehillat Yaar Ramot, six-part lecture and guided tour series on Jerusalem, October-November 2013.

National Women’s Study Day Honor’s Prof. Alice Shalvi • The National Masorti Women’s Study Day that took place at Schechter in June honored Prof. Alice Shalvi, whose vision led to the creation of this unique women’s experience 14 years ago, together with the organizational talents of Diane Friedgut and partnership of Women’s League for Conservative Judaism. Over 350 women, many of them new immigrants, devoted their day of study in four languages to Women Defy Expectations. The program also includes three regional study days which took place in February 2013, at Masorti Kehillot in Hanaton, Kfar Saba and Beer Sheva, drawing 300 women to these events.

Schechter Scholarship for the Community

- The Burden of a Double Profession-Israeli Women in the Work Force, eighth annual academic conference on The Status of Women in Israeli Society, in memory of Board Member Atara Ciechanover z”l, November 2012
- Shirat Habakashot: The Song of Entreaty, Conference on Piyutim (Jewish Liturgical Poems), Schechter Rabbinical Seminary, Annual Rabbi David Aronson Memorial Symposium, November 2012
- Iconoclasm in Eretz Yisrael in the Byzantine period, Dr. NaHaCham, Fall Faculty Meeting, October 2012

OUTREACH

The Goldstein-Golinkin Adult Education Program continues to bring Torah Lishma to Masorti communities throughout Israel. A summary of the learning outreach: Seventeen Schechter lecturers, Neve Schechter Center for Jewish Culture, Schechter Land of Israel Studies M.A. Track, May 2013

- Prof. David Golinkin, Kehillat Moriah, Haifa, Jewish Law: Coping with Changing Times, April 2013 • Dr. Shula Laderman, Kehillat Eshel Avraham, Beersheva, The Sense of Time (Past, Present and Future) in the Life of the Jews in the Middle Ages as Reflected in Illuminated Haggadot, March 2013 • Prof. Yossi Turner, Kehillat Ramot Zion, Jerusalem, three-part lecture series on Social Justice in Modern Jewish Thought, February 2013 • Dr. Alexander Even-Chen, Kehillat Ra’anana, Between Heschel and Buber: In honor of the Publication of his book, January 2013
- Prof. David Golinkin, Midreshet Hakarem and Kehillat Hakarem, Karmiel, Women in Jewish Law, 1845-2010, January 2013 • Dr. Doron Bar, Kehillat Yaar Ramot, six-part lecture and guided tour series on Jerusalem, October-November 2013.

National Women’s Study Day Honor’s Prof. Alice Shalvi • The National Masorti Women’s Study Day that took place at Schechter in June honored Prof. Alice Shalvi, whose vision led to the creation of this unique women’s experience 14 years ago, together with the organizational talents of Diane Friedgut and partnership of Women’s League for Conservative Judaism. Over 350 women, many of them new immigrants, devoted their day of study in four languages to Women Defy Expectations. The program also includes three regional study days which took place in February 2013, at Masorti Kehillot in Hanaton, Kfar Saba and Beer Sheva, drawing 300 women to these events.

Schechter Scholarship for the Community

- The Burden of a Double Profession-Israeli Women in the Work Force, eighth annual academic conference on The Status of Women in Israeli Society, in memory of Board Member Atara Ciechanover z”l, November 2012
- Shirat Habakashot: The Song of Entreaty, Conference on Piyutim (Jewish Liturgical Poems), Schechter Rabbinical Seminary, Annual Rabbi David Aronson Memorial Symposium, November 2012
- Iconoclasm in Eretz Yisrael in the Byzantine period, Dr. NaHaCham, Fall Faculty Meeting, October 2012

OUTREACH

The Goldstein-Golinkin Adult Education Program continues to bring Torah Lishma to Masorti communities throughout Israel. A summary of the learning outreach: Seventeen Schechter lecturers, Neve Schechter Center for Jewish Culture, Schechter Land of Israel Studies M.A. Track, May 2013

- Prof. David Golinkin, Kehillat Moriah, Haifa, Jewish Law: Coping with Changing Times, April 2013 • Dr. Shula Laderman, Kehillat Eshel Avraham, Beersheva, The Sense of Time (Past, Present and Future) in the Life of the Jews in the Middle Ages as Reflected in Illuminated Haggadot, March 2013 • Prof. Yossi Turner, Kehillat Ramot Zion, Jerusalem, three-part lecture series on Social Justice in Modern Jewish Thought, February 2013 • Dr. Alexander Even-Chen, Kehillat Ra’anana, Between Heschel and Buber: In honor of the Publication of his book, January 2013
- Prof. David Golinkin, Midreshet Hakarem and Kehillat Hakarem, Karmiel, Women in Jewish Law, 1845-2010, January 2013 • Dr. Doron Bar, Kehillat Yaar Ramot, six-part lecture and guided tour series on Jerusalem, October-November 2013.

National Women’s Study Day Honor’s Prof. Alice Shalvi • The National Masorti Women’s Study Day that took place at Schechter in June honored Prof. Alice Shalvi, whose vision led to the creation of this unique women’s experience 14 years ago, together with the organizational talents of Diane Friedgut and partnership of Women’s League for Conservative Judaism. Over 350 women, many of them new immigrants, devoted their day of study in four languages to Women Defy Expectations. The program also includes three regional study days which took place in February 2013, at Masorti Kehillot in Hanaton, Kfar Saba and Beer Sheva, drawing 300 women to these events.
NEW BOOKS 2012-13
Published by the Schechter Institute
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. 24, Feminist Receptions of Biblical Women, Consulting Editor: Lesleigh Cushing Stahlberg, Spring 2013
David’s Psalms: The Artbook, David Sharir, featuring 40 unique paintings depicting various psalms; translation, Rabbi Benjamin Segal; introduction, Dr. Shula Laderman; Jerusalem: co-published by Schechter and Gefen Publishing, 2013
Midrash Hadasch, ed., Dr. Gila Wachman Jerusalem: Schechter Institute, 2013 (Hebrew)
Published by Schechter Faculty and Graduates
The Sermons of Zerahia Halevi Saladin, Ari Ackerman, Beersheva: Ben Gurion University Press, 2013 (Hebrew)
Seridei Teshuvot of the Ottoman Empire Sages, Vol 1-2, Shmuel Glick, Jewish Theological Seminary of America & Taylor-Schechter Genizah Research Unit, Cambridge, England: Cambridge University Library, 2013
An Ode to Salonika: the Ladino Verses of Bouena Sarfatty, Renée Levine Melammed, Bloomington, IN: Indiana University Press, 2013
From Berlin to Shanghai: Letters to Eretz Yisrael, Sigmund-Shmuel and Gertrud Hirschberg, ed. Guy Miron, Jerusalem: Yad Vashem, 2013 (Hebrew)
Books to be Published in 2013-14
Say Something New Each Day, Noah Golinkin, Jerusalem: Schechter Institute
As a Driven Leaf, Milton Steinberg, Hebrew edition, Tel Aviv: Schechter Institute, co-published with Yediot Ahronot
Esther Rabbah, eds., Yosef Tabori, Arnon Atzmon, Jerusalem: Schechter Institute
The Rabbi Marc and Dr. Henia z”l Liebhaber Prize for the Promotion of Religious Tolerance in Israel is today recognized as a major symbol in bringing the notion of religious pluralism and tolerance to the forefront of Israel’s national agenda. Over the last 17 years, men and women of exceptional talent have been honored for building bridges of faith and dialogue through their impressive efforts in education, government, media and the arts. This year’s winners of the 16th Liebhaber Prize - Dov Elbaum and Kobi Oz - are no exception.

Dov Elbaum is a well-known journalist and media personality who is engaged in ongoing renewal of his personal connection to Judaism. Writing for Hadashot and Yediot Aharonot newspapers and later, with his TV talk show, Across Israel, Elbaum brought serious philosophical topics to the Israeli household. His current TV program, Welcoming the Shabbat, engages Israelis representing the entire gamut of religious and cultural life on the most salient issues confronting Israeli society.

“The Liebhaber Prize for Religious Tolerance is one I value more highly than any other. To me, religious tolerance is not only something that improves a society characterized by controversy and a variety of beliefs. For me, religious tolerance is a decree, a call, a purpose and a destiny. It resides in my innermost soul, and finds outward expression through my work in various arenas of Israeli culture,” explained Elbaum upon receiving the award this June.

Kobi Oz is a musician, author and social activist whose musical compositions transcend traditional borders and classification. He reaches out to a wide spectrum of audiences that identify with the Israeli authenticity his art brings to bear. Oz began studying Jewish texts a number of years ago where he found “the real Israeli treasure: values from the Talmud and other Jewish sources that secular Zionists largely ignored.” By translating ancient Jewish themes into contemporary musical language, he is using his art as a catalyst for social change. Mizmorei Nevuchim (Psalms for the Perplexed), an album which Oz produced in 2010, is a unique combination of styles and sources, where “Talmud has a coffee with Tel Aviv” and “Jerusalem dances with the songs of Kobi’s grandfather.” Oz relates, “This album was my way to converse with the Sages, allowing lofty ideas to trickle down to the simplicity of our daily lives.” A second album on the same theme came out in 2011. For Israel’s 61st Independence Day ceremony at Mt. Herzl, Oz was selected to carry one of the twelve Torches – a true testament to this artist’s contribution to the forging of an inclusive and thriving Hebrew culture.

“...tolerance is the ability to acknowledge the different parts that comprise our whole, to understand their delicate complexity and strike the right balance between them. This tolerance is not compromise, but the capacity to encompass. It is the understanding that without the ability to internalize different approaches and opposing views, there is no room for cultural vitality and effervescence.”

Dov Elbaum, Liebhaber Prize Acceptance Speech, 2013
Schechter raised $5,661,115 for operating expenses from the period of July 1, 2012 - June 30, 2013, despite continued unease about the slow pace of economic growth, as well as other challenges.

The continued fundraising success enabled its four Amutot (nonprofits) to sustain and grow numerous academic, educational and outreach activities at its main campus in Jerusalem, at Neve Schechter in Tel Aviv, throughout the State of Israel and in Eastern Europe.

Schechter’s two beautiful new facilities opened in 2012, and new gifts as well as payments on multi-year pledges to complete our capital campaigns have continued to arrive throughout 2012-13:

**Jerusalem:** Through June 30, 2013, the campaign for the Jerusalem Campus has received commitments of $9,041,000 million, with actual income received at $8,784 million, paid as of June 2013.

**Neve Zedek/Tel Aviv:** Through June 30, 2013, the campaign for Neve Schechter in Neve Zedek has obtained $4,185 million in commitments, with $3,784 million paid, as of June 2013.

Our generous community of donors enables the Schechter Institute to advance its mission of Jewish education and promoting religious pluralism and tolerance in Israel. We are grateful to every donor and funder for their generosity and look forward to their continued support, partnership, and involvement in our mission.

### New Endowment Gift

In 2012-13, the Schechter Institute Graduate School received a new endowment gift of $1 million from an anonymous donor in Israel to set up a fund for faculty research.

### New Major Gift to TALI

Susan and Scott Shay, NYC, made a major gift to permanently name the Chief Executive Position of the TALI Education Fund, “The Susan and Scott Shay TALI Director General”. The naming is in recognition of the numerous contributions the Shay’s have made to the development of TALI education.

### New Major Operating Gifts and Grants ($20,000 and up)

Roger Silk/Central Children’s Charities, Inc., Schechter Graduate School

Lynne Galler and Hezzy Datner/Marc Galler Research Foundation, TALI Education Fund

Toddy and Irving Granovsky, TALI Teacher Training

Arie and Eve Halpern Foundation, Schechter Graduate School

Kochav Trust, Camp Ramah-Ukraine

Lawrence Tanenbaum, TALI Education Fund

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

- Morris and Beverly Baker Foundation, Neve Schechter Campus
- Jerry and Miriam Katzin, Neve Schechter Preschool
- Jack Kay z”l, Jerusalem Campus
- Paul and Sheri Robbins, Neve Schechter Campus
- Nathan and Lily Silver Family Foundation, Neve Schechter Campus
- **New Bequests**

We invite all our friends to establish an enduring legacy at Schechter and thank those who have remembered us in their wills during the past year:

- Lou and Judy Miller
- Rick and Ann Tavan
- Buddy and Frances Brandt
- Arnold and Pat (z”l) Gittelson
- Anonymous, San Diego CA
- Cantor Abe Golinkin

### FUNDRAISING NEWS: NORTH AMERICA

**RESHET Launches a National Initiative with Inaugural Program in the Bay Area**

Schechter Reshet (Network), a new and innovative project of the Schechter Institutes, Inc., was developed and initiated in 2013.

---

Reshet’s goal is to more strongly connect committed Jewish leaders in communities throughout the U.S. to Schechter’s mission through personal interaction, learning and dialogue with Schechter’s outstanding faculty in intimate forums. The successful Reshet program is building a strong and informed leadership dedicated to promoting Schechter’s commitment to religious pluralism, Jewish tradition and practice through Jewish Education programs in Israel.

Rick and Ann Tavan, long-time supporters of the Schechter Institute, invited friends and Schechter supporters to their Saratoga, CA home for the inaugural Reshet program in April 2013 to hear Schechter lecturer Dr. Batsheva Margalit-Stern eloquently speak on The Evolving Role of Women in Politics and Israeli Society.

The group engaged in lively debate as they moved from Golda Meir to contemporary Israeli political party leaders, examining gender roles and equality in national and local Jewish institutions in Israel.

Stay Connected • The next Schechter Reshet gathering may be taking place in your community! Events are planned for: October 3-8: Bay Area, California • October 9-12: Los Angeles • February 2014: Chicago, Denver and Los Angeles • May 2014: NYC, South Florida and Dallas • October 2014: Chicago, Bay Area and Los Angeles.

“Like” us on Facebook to learn about Reshet in your community.

FUNDRAISING NEWS: ISRAEL

“Israeli Friends” of The Schechter Institutes Launched • Through the vision and support of Board Member Dr. Raymond Coll, the infrastructure for fundraising in Israel was successfully put in place in late 2012, followed by a well-attended opening event held at Schechter’s new Jerusalem Campus in February 2013. Here it became official: “Friends of Schechter” also speak Hebrew! The evening, organized by Schechter graduate and new director of “Israeli Friends”, Iris Shvil, garnered a number of substantial sponsorships from firms connected with Schechter, as well as individual support from students, graduates, board members and others who identify with the Schechter message of pluralistic Jewish learning. 2013 Liebhaber Prize recipients, Israeli TV personality Dov Elbaum, and popular rock musician Kobi Oz, led the evening’s program which took place in the Harvey L. Miller Family Bet Midrash.

“Israeli Friends” Chairman Sets Local Agenda • Moshe Sharashove, CEO, Y.S. Shamir Building and Engineering Ltd, attended the “Israeli Friends of Schechter” opening event in February, and liked what he saw. Moshe, who is completing his M.A. at Schechter, is familiar with the institution and the values it represents (see page 25). He agreed to chair the new organization. In June, he joined the Schechter Institute Board of Trustees. Moshe, together with Iris Shvil, established a “Friends” Steering Committee which held its first meeting in July. The wheels were set in motion for prioritizing Schechter’s needs and raising its visibility amongst Israelis. Members of the new “Israeli Friends” Steering Committee include SJS board members Adv. Avi Porten, Prof. Dalia Ofer and Adv. Sarah Teperberg. Additional members include Schechter graduates Adv. Eti Orgad, Avner Corech, head of Technologies and Communications, Israel Electric Corp. and Gila Miller.

Calendar to Emphasize Fundraising and Study • 2013-14 will serve as a backdrop for a rich and inviting “Israeli Friends” calendar of events including a major fundraising event scheduled for Spring 2014. Also planned are a number of walking tours for “Friends” led by Schechter faculty. The first of these excursions is set for October 2013 with Jerusalem expert Dr. Yair Paz who will be guiding “Mt. Scopus in Historical Perspective”. Schechter Jewish Outreach is a third component that will be developed in the coming year, based on providing serious Jewish study options to Israelis searching for an open and intellectual approach to exploring Judaism.

“Friends” Climb the Temple Mount • Jerusalem’s Temple Mount was the first destination of Schechter’s newly formed “Israeli Friends”. The group was guided by Dean of the Graduate School, Dr. Doron Bar, whose expertise is Land of Israel Studies, with a specialty in Jerusalem. The tour first took members through the winding alleyways of the Old City to the Church of the Holy Sepulcher. From there, they scaled the Temple Mount and received a topographic, historic and geo-political analysis of this emotionally charged site.
MOSHE SHARASHOVE: A MAN WHO IS ALWAYS LEARNING

Meet Moshe Sharashove, Chairman of the newly-established "Israeli Friends" of Schechter. Moshe firmly believes that Schechter’s Jewish pluralistic studies programs must be expanded to reach Israel’s “great silent majority”. Many institutions deal with Jewish-Israel-Zionist education, but he feels that Schechter has the edge because of the academic degree it offers. “Schechter has the potential to bring Jewish literacy and Jewish values to an entire generation.

‘Teaching the teachers’ as Schechter does is extremely effective in reaching a critical mass.” In Moshe’s view, this mission is not a luxury, but fundamental in guaranteeing Israel’s future. Even though he spent ten years as a career officer in the Armoured Corps, Moshe still feels strongly that “Israel cannot rely on the success of its army and its economy alone. Our determining strength lies in the Jewish values we are able to instill in our children.”

Moshe attributes his love of learning and moral compass to his maternal grandfather, a Syrian Jew from Aleppo who came to Israel via Egypt in the 1920’s. Today, as CEO of Y.S. Shamir Building and Engineering Ltd, a company he founded in 1995, Moshe applies many of the precepts he learned in his grandfather’s home to business practice and communal affairs.

“The 2008 recession impacted negatively on the business,” he remembers. Instead of worrying about the situation, he capitalized on this temporary “slowdown”, using it as an opportunity to learn. He is now completing an M.A. at Schechter. “The studies at Schechter changed my life. I became not only a more informed individual, but also a better human being.”

Moshe readily agreed to head up “Israeli Friends of Schechter.” He has a clear agenda: “growing” the Schechter donor base, while at the same time, offering study groups with Schechter faculty to interested communities around the country, as well as instituting volunteer projects for Israeli youth through schools and high schools.

“...israelis are searching for ways to put meaning in their lives. Jewish knowledge empowers and I think Schechter can be the catalyst for real social and religious change in this country.”
Dr. Brenda Bacon, Senior Lecturer, Jewish Education, Schechter Institute.

Midreshet Yerushalayim • We acknowledge the dedicated efforts of Moshe Cohen, who is stepping down as Board Chair and thank him for his many years of outstanding service. Hillary Gordon, Resource Development Coordinator at Masorti Olami, Jerusalem, has recently joined the Midreshet Yerushalayim Board.

Board Members Making Headlines • Amb. Colette Avital, Chair of the Schechter Institute Executive Committee, was awarded Portugal’s highest honor – the Grand Cross of Prince Henry the Navigator – in recognition of her contribution to Israeli - Portuguese relations during her years as ambassador from 1988-1992.

As chair of the central umbrella group for Holocaust survivors in Israel, Amb. Colette Avital accompanied Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu to officially open an exhibit organized by Yad Vashem in the Jewish Pavilion at Auschwitz, June 2013.

Amb. Ephraim Halevy, member of Schechter Institute Executive Committee, was awarded an honorary doctorate from Bar Ilan University for “dedicating his life to the security of Israel and its inhabitants while serving as head of the Mossad, July 2013.

We Remember • Schechter mourns the passing of Jack Kay z”l, Silver Spring, MD, generous supporter of pluralistic Jewish education in Israel and long-time Board member of the Schechter Rabbinical Seminary, April 2013; Moshe Shalvi z”l, beloved husband of Prof. Alice Shalvi, past rector and President of the Schechter Institute and former Chair of its Executive Committee, June 2013.


# BUDGET

(in $US) January 1 - December 31, 2013

## Income

### Schechter Institute of Jewish Studies Graduate School

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Income</th>
<th>Expenses</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jewish Agency + KKL</td>
<td>Faculty Salaries</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Federations and Foundations</td>
<td>President’s Office, PR and Development*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contributions</td>
<td>M.A. Scholarships</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuition and Fees</td>
<td>Library</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Endowment Income</td>
<td>Academic Centers, Publishing and Outreach</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Book Sales and Miscellaneous</td>
<td>Administration and Campus Maintenance*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Sub-Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>3,961,716</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Serves all 4 Schechter Amutot and capital projects and includes budget of Schechter Institutes, Inc. in U.S.

### TALI Education Fund

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Income</th>
<th>Expenses</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jewish Agency</td>
<td>Textbook/Curriculum Development</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Federations</td>
<td>Pedagogical Counseling</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Foundations</td>
<td>School Rabbis and Experiential Programming</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contributions</td>
<td>Teacher and Leadership Training</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Israeli Government</td>
<td>Early Childhood Department</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fees for Sales, Services</td>
<td>TALI Institute for Spiritual Education</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Special Projects</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>TALI Network Expansion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Administration</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Sub-Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>2,734,658</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Schechter Rabbinical Seminary

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Income</th>
<th>Expenses</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jewish Agency</td>
<td>Faculty Salaries</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Federations and Foundations</td>
<td>Scholarship Stipends</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contributions</td>
<td>Special Programs and Student Activities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuition and Fees</td>
<td>Administration</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Sub-Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>763,419</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Midreshet Yerushalayim - Israel

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Income</th>
<th>Expenses</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jewish Agency</td>
<td>Russian Language Courses</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Foundations and Federations</td>
<td>MILI Quiz Program</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Israeli Government/Municipalities</td>
<td>Schechter Centers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contributions</td>
<td>Neve Schechter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Participation and Fees</td>
<td>Administration</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Sub-Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>813,283</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Midreshet Yerushalayim - Ukraine

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Income</th>
<th>Expenses</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Federations</td>
<td>Schools and teacher training</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Foundations</td>
<td>Camp Ramah - Summer and Family Camps</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contributions</td>
<td>Rabbi/Shaliach Salary and Housing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Masorti Olami</td>
<td>Kyiv Center Rent and Expenses</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Kyiv Center Programming</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Other Programming</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Administration</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Sub-Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>416,000</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Total, Four Amutot**

- **416,000**

**Total, Four Amutot**

- **$8,689,076**
OUR LEADERSHIP

THE SCHECHTER INSTITUTES, INC.
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
Saul Sanders, Chair
Jonathan Aaron
Hubert Brandt
Dr. Raymond Coll
Prof. David Golinkin
Rabbi Michael Gottlieb
Gershon Kekst
Lew Krulwich
Stephen J. Lovell
Aaron Priest
Robert S. Rifkind
Rabbi Philip Schein
Bruce Whizin
Diane Wohl
Avrum Lapin, North American Representative*

SCHECHTER INSTITUTE
OF JEWISH STUDIES
BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Israeli Executive Committee
Amb. Colette Avital, Chair
Daniel Birnbaum
Mati Herbst
Amb. Efraim Halevy
Emily Levy-Shochat
Prof. Dalia Ofer
Rabbi Benjamin Segal
Shmuel Shemesh
Jonathan Steinberg
Sarah Teperberg
Dr. Doron Bar*
Liat Citron, Vice President for Finance*
Eitan Cooper, Vice President for Development*
Prof. David Golinkin, President*

International Board of Trustees
Saul Sanders, Chair, Board of Trustees, USA
Uri Ben David, Israel
Hubert Brandt, USA
Dr. David Breakstone, Israel
Dr. Raymond Coll, USA
Prof. Arnold Eisen, USA
Dr. Amir Fink, Israel
Prof. David Golinkin, Israel
Yoram Gordon, Israel
Rabbi Alan Iser, USA
Yaakov Kamon, Israel
Gershon Kekst, USA
Lewis Krulwich, USA
Rabbi Marc Liebhaber, USA
Louis Miller, USA
Claudio Pincus, USA
Avi Porten, Israel
Aaron Priest, USA
Prof. Jehuda Reinharz, USA**
Ami Rozenberg, Israel
Robert S. Rifkind, USA
Prof. Ismar Schorsch, USA**
Moshe Sharashove, Israel
Diane Wohl, USA

Schechter Full-time Faculty
Dr. Ari Ackerman, Jewish Education, Jewish Thought
Dr. Moti Arad, Talmud
Dr. Brenda Bacon, Jewish Education
Dr. Doron Bar, Land of Israel Studies
Prof. Moshe Benovitz, Talmud, Jewish Law
Dr. Alexander Even-Chen, Jewish Thought
Dr. David Frankel, Bible
Prof. Shamma Friedman, Talmud
Prof. Shmuel Glick, Talmud, Jewish Law
Prof. David Golinkin, Talmud, Jewish Law
Dr. Tamar Kadari, Midrash
Prof. Renée Levine Melammed, Dean, Jewish History, Women’s Studies and Sephardic Jewry
Dr. Paul Mandel, Midrash
Dr. Bat-sheva Margalit Stern
Prof. Guy Miron, Jewish History
Dr. Michal Oren, Land of Israel Studies
Dr. Yair Paz, Land of Israel Studies
Dr. Einat Ramon, Jewish Thought, Women’s Studies
Dr. George Savran, Bible
Dr. Paul Shrell-Fox, Family and Community Studies
Prof. Yossi Turner, Jewish Thought
Dr. Noa Yuval-Hacham
SCHECHTER
RABBINICAL SEMINARY
BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Israeli Executive Committee
Prof. Hanan Alexander, Chair, Board of Trustees
Ilana Laderman Mushkin, Chair, Executive Committee
Rabbi Dubi Haiyun
Moshe Cohen
Barbara Goldstein
Prof. David Golinkin
Yosef Kfiri
Bob Lapidot
Emily Levy-Shochat
Rabbi Benjamin Segal
Rabbi Todd Zeff
Liat Citron, Israel*
Eitan Cooper, Israel*
Rabbi Shlomo Tucker, Dean*

International Board of Trustees
Rabbi Gary Charlestein, USA
Rabbi Alan Cohen, USA
Marty Davis, Israel
Prof. Arnold Eisen, USA
Rabbi Baruch Frydman-Kohl, Canada
Jack Kay z”l, USA
Gershon Kekst, USA
Rabbi Rivon Krygier, France
Rabbi Barry Leff, Israel
Blanche Meisel, USA
Aaron Priest, USA
Robert S. Rifkind, USA
Paul Robbins, USA
Saul Sanders, USA
Prof. Ismar Schorsch, USA**
Prof. Alice Shalvi, Israel
Alan Silberman, USA
Josh Sosland, USA
Josh Weisen, Israel

SRS Full-time Faculty
Ada Spitzer, Hebrew
Rabbi Shlomo Tucker, Dean, Rabbinics
Rabbi Diana Villa, Coordinator, Mishlei Program, Jewish Law
Rabbi Israel Warman, Talmud, Jewish Law

TALI EDUCATION FUND

Board of Trustees
Roni Yannay, Chair
Dr. Eitan Chikli, Susan and Scott Shay Director General
Dr. Brenda Bacon
Prof. Haim Be’er
Amit Dar
Itay HaCohen
Rabbi Prof. David Golinkin
Deborah Housen-Couriel
Rabbi Naama Kelman
Dr. Yosef Lang
Yaakov Marks
Daniel Marom
Issac(Tsachi) Mushkin
Chen Noy
Rachel Ochana
Sigal Shapiro
Avinoam Sharon
Ram Shmueli
Prof. Oded Shremer
Liat Citron
Eitan Cooper*

MIDRESHET YERUSHALAYIM

Board of Trustees
Moshe Cohen, Chair
Amb. Colette Avital
Yair Paz, Director
Uri Ben David
Prof. David Golinkin
Hillary Gordon
Rabbi Tzvi Graetz
Yossi Harush
Don Jacobson
Yossi Lentz
Rabbi Asher Ostrin
Miriam Siglov
Dr. Lev Utevski
Eli Wolk
Liat Citron
Eitan Cooper*

* Ex Officio
**Emeritus Member
OUR DONORS

(Donations received as of July 1, 2013)

Standing Endowments
The Rabbi David Aronson Memorial Lecture
The Morris and Beverly Baker Foundation
Endowment for TALI Music Programs
The William Davidson Endowment
Ya’akov Davidson (z”l) Trust
The Louis and Rhea Gelfand Endowment for
Midreshet Yerushalayim
The Devorah and Shraga Genger Prize for Excellence in TALI Education
The Meyer and Tirza Goldstein Holocaust Memorial Library

The Ivri Scholarship Endowment
The Jerome and Miriam Katzin Presidential Chair in Jewish Studies
The Kekst Family Faculty Fellowship
The Rabbi Marc and Dr. Henia (z”l) Liebhaber Prize for Religious Tolerance
The Rabbi Israel Levinthal Center for Contemporary Responsa
The Milken Endowment for TALI
The Charles H. Revson Endowed Graduate Fellowship Program in honor of Judge

Simon Rifkind and Harry Meresman
The Goldie Rotman Institute for Education in Judaism and the Humanities
The Schechter Faculty Research Endowment
The Prof. Alice Shalvi Scholarships for Excellence in Jewish Women’s Studies and Judaism and the Arts
Susan and Scott Shay TALI Director General Naming
The Yad Avi Hayishuv Endowment

Trustees ($500,000 and above)
Anonymous
William Davidson Foundation
Jewish Agency for Israel

Pillars ($100,000 and above)
Gary and Carol Berman
The Crown Family Philanthropies
Jerome and Miriam Katzin
Mr. and Mrs. Jack (z”l) Kay
Harvey L. Miller Supporting Foundation
Israel Ministry of Education
Scott and Susan Shay

Founders ($50,000 and above)
Morris and Beverly Baker Foundation
JUF/ Jewish Fed of Metropolitan Chicago
Dr. Betsy Gidwitz
Todd and Irving Granovsky
Edythe Griffinger Trust
Gershon and Carol Kekst
Kochav Trust
Rabbi Marc and Dr. Henia (z”l) Liebhaber
David and Inez Myers Foundation
Masorti Olami
Robert and Arleen Rifkind
Ben N. Teitel Charitable Trust, Gerald Cook, Trustee
The Alvin and Fanny B. Thalheimer Foundation

UIA of Canada
Peter and Debbie Wexler
Harold and Carole Wolfe and Ab and Phyllis Flatt
Diane and Howard Wohl

Builders ($36,000 and above)
Beth Tzedec Foundation - Dr. Ann (z”l) and Max (z”l) Tanenbaum Fund
Hubert and Frances Brandt
Marc Galler Research Foundation
Binah Yitzrit Foundation, Rick Goldberg, Trustee
Simha and Sara Lainer Family Foundation
UJA Federation of New York
Aaron and Arleen Priest
Paul and Sherri Robbins

The Arie and Eva Halpern Family Foundation Inc.
State of Israel Guardian of Bequests
Jewish Federation of Kansas City
Kohelet Foundation
Paula and Jerry Gottesman
Stephen and Dedee Lovell
MASA
United Jewish Communities of Metro West
Claudio and Penny Pincus
Saul and Mary Sanders
Sodastream
Nathan and Lily Silver Family Foundation
Howard and Carole Tanenbaum
Lawrence Tanenbaum
Bonnie and Marty Tenenbaum
Marilyn Ziering
Ed and Barbara Zinbarg

Menorah Society ($18,000 and above)
The Associated: Jewish Community Federation of Baltimore
Manolo and Diane Berezdivin
Vicki Berman
Central Children’s Charities, Inc., Roger Silk Trustee
Louis Colen
Raymond and Bernice Coll
The Dimston Family
Alisa and Daniel Doctoroff
The Dorot Foundation

The Ivri Scholarship Endowment
The Jerome and Miriam Katzin Presidential Chair in Jewish Studies
The Kekst Family Faculty Fellowship
The Rabbi Marc and Dr. Henia (z”l) Liebhaber Prize for Religious Tolerance
The Rabbi Israel Levinthal Center for Contemporary Responsa
The Milken Endowment for TALI
The Charles H. Revson Endowed Graduate Fellowship Program in honor of Judge

Menorah Society ($18,000 and above)
The Associated: Jewish Community Federation of Baltimore
Manolo and Diane Berezdivin
Vicki Berman
Central Children’s Charities, Inc., Roger Silk Trustee
Louis Colen
Raymond and Bernice Coll
The Dimston Family
Alisa and Daniel Doctoroff
The Dorot Foundation

Schechter Society ($10,000 and above)
Ministry of Absorption
Max and Anna Baran, Ben and Sarah Baran and Milton Baran Endowment Fund
The David Berg Foundation
Mandell L. and Madeleine H. Berman Foundation
Julius and Ray Charlestein Foundation
The Hannah S. and Samuel A. Cohn Memorial Foundation
Dutch Jewish Humanitarian Fund
Odile and Mark Ellison

Standing Endowments
The Rabbi David Aronson Memorial Lecture
The Morris and Beverly Baker Foundation
Endowment for TALI Music Programs
The William Davidson Endowment
Ya’akov Davidson (z”l) Trust
The Louis and Rhea Gelfand Endowment for Midreshet Yerushalayim
The Devorah and Shraga Genger Prize for Excellence in TALI Education
The Meyer and Tirza Goldstein Holocaust Memorial Library

The Ivri Scholarship Endowment
The Jerome and Miriam Katzin Presidential Chair in Jewish Studies
The Kekst Family Faculty Fellowship
The Rabbi Marc and Dr. Henia (z”l) Liebhaber Prize for Religious Tolerance
The Rabbi Israel Levinthal Center for Contemporary Responsa
The Milken Endowment for TALI
The Charles H. Revson Endowed Graduate Fellowship Program in honor of Judge

Simon Rifkind and Harry Meresman
The Goldie Rotman Institute for Education in Judaism and the Humanities
The Schechter Faculty Research Endowment
The Prof. Alice Shalvi Scholarships for Excellence in Jewish Women’s Studies and Judaism and the Arts
Susan and Scott Shay TALI Director General Naming
The Yad Avi Hayishuv Endowment

Trustees ($500,000 and above)
Anonymous
William Davidson Foundation
Jewish Agency for Israel

Pillars ($100,000 and above)
Gary and Carol Berman
The Crown Family Philanthropies
Jerome and Miriam Katzin
Mr. and Mrs. Jack (z”l) Kay
Harvey L. Miller Supporting Foundation
Israel Ministry of Education
Scott and Susan Shay

Founders ($50,000 and above)
Morris and Beverly Baker Foundation
JUF/ Jewish Fed of Metropolitan Chicago
Dr. Betsy Gidwitz
Todd and Irving Granovsky
Edythe Griffinger Trust
Gershon and Carol Kekst
Kochav Trust
Rabbi Marc and Dr. Henia (z”l) Liebhaber
David and Inez Myers Foundation
Masorti Olami
Robert and Arleen Rifkind
Ben N. Teitel Charitable Trust, Gerald Cook, Trustee
The Alvin and Fanny B. Thalheimer Foundation

UIA of Canada
Peter and Debbie Wexler
Harold and Carole Wolfe and Ab and Phyllis Flatt
Diane and Howard Wohl

Builders ($36,000 and above)
Beth Tzedec Foundation - Dr. Ann (z”l) and Max (z”l) Tanenbaum Fund
Hubert and Frances Brandt
Marc Galler Research Foundation
Binah Yitzrit Foundation, Rick Goldberg, Trustee
Simha and Sara Lainer Family Foundation
UJA Federation of New York
Aaron and Arleen Priest
Paul and Sherri Robbins

The Arie and Eva Halpern Family Foundation Inc.
State of Israel Guardian of Bequests
Jewish Federation of Kansas City
Kohelet Foundation
Paula and Jerry Gottesman
Stephen and Dedee Lovell
MASA
United Jewish Communities of Metro West
Claudio and Penny Pincus
Saul and Mary Sanders
Sodastream
Nathan and Lily Silver Family Foundation
Howard and Carole Tanenbaum
Lawrence Tanenbaum
Bonnie and Marty Tenenbaum
Marilyn Ziering
Ed and Barbara Zinbarg

Menorah Society ($18,000 and above)
The Associated: Jewish Community Federation of Baltimore
Manolo and Diane Berezdivin
Vicki Berman
Central Children’s Charities, Inc., Roger Silk Trustee
Louis Colen
Raymond and Bernice Coll
The Dimston Family
Alisa and Daniel Doctoroff
The Dorot Foundation

THE Rabbi David Aronson Memorial Lecture
THE Morris and Beverly Baker Foundation
Endowment for TALI Music Programs
THE William Davidson Endowment
YA’AKOV Davidson (Z”L) Trust
THE Louis and Rhea Gelfand Endowment for Midreshet Yerushalayim
THE Devorah and Shraga Genger Prize for Excellence in TALI Education
THE Meyer and Tirza Goldstein Holocaust Memorial Library

THE Ivri Scholarship Endowment
THE Jerome and Miriam Katzin Presidential Chair in Jewish Studies
THE Kekst Family Faculty Fellowship
THE Rabbi Marc and Dr. Henia (Z”L) Liebhaber Prize for Religious Tolerance
THE Rabbi Israel Levinthal Center for Contemporary Responsa
THE Milken Endowment for TALI
THE Charles H. Revson Endowed Graduate Fellowship Program in honor of Judge

Simon Rifkind and Harry Meresman
THE Goldie Rotman Institute for Education in Judaism and the Humanities
THE Schechter Faculty Research Endowment
THE Prof. Alice Shalvi Scholarships for Excellence in Jewish Women’s Studies and Judaism and the Arts
Susan and Scott Shay TALI Director General Naming
THE Yad Avi Hayishuv Endowment

Trustees ($500,000 and above)
Anonymous
William Davidson Foundation
Jewish Agency for Israel

Pillars ($100,000 and above)
Gary and Carol Berman
The Crown Family Philanthropies
Jerome and Miriam Katzin
Mr. and Mrs. Jack (Z”L) Kay
Harvey L. Miller Supporting Foundation
Israel Ministry of Education
Scott and Susan Shay

Founders ($50,000 and above)
Morris and Beverly Baker Foundation
JUF/ Jewish Fed of Metropolitan Chicago
Dr. Betsy Gidwitz
Todd and Irving Granovsky
Edythe Griffinger Trust
Gershon and Carol Kekst
Kochav Trust
Rabbi Marc and Dr. Henia (Z”L) Liebhaber
David and Inez Myers Foundation
Masorti Olami
Robert and Arleen Rifkind
Ben N. Teitel Charitable Trust, Gerald Cook, Trustee
The Alvin and Fanny B. Thalheimer Foundation

UIA of Canada
Peter and Debbie Wexler
Harold and Carole Wolfe and Ab and Phyllis Flatt
Diane and Howard Wohl

Builders ($36,000 and above)
Beth Tzedec Foundation - Dr. Ann (Z”L) and Max (Z”L) Tanenbaum Fund
Hubert and Frances Brandt
Marc Galler Research Foundation
Binah Yitzrit Foundation, Rick Goldberg, Trustee
Simha and Sara Lainer Family Foundation
UJA Federation of New York
Aaron and Arleen Priest
Paul and Sherri Robbins

The Arie and Eva Halpern Family Foundation Inc.
State of Israel Guardian of Bequests
Jewish Federation of Kansas City
Kohelet Foundation
Paula and Jerry Gottesman
Stephen and Dedee Lovell
MASA
United Jewish Communities of Metro West
Claudio and Penny Pincus
Saul and Mary Sanders
Sodastream
Nathan and Lily Silver Family Foundation
Howard and Carole Tanenbaum
Lawrence Tanenbaum
Bonnie and Marty Tenenbaum
Marilyn Ziering
Ed and Barbara Zinbarg

Menorah Society ($18,000 and above)
The Associated: Jewish Community Federation of Baltimore
Manolo and Diane Berezdivin
Vicki Berman
Central Children’s Charities, Inc., Roger Silk Trustee
Louis Colen
Raymond and Bernice Coll
The Dimston Family
Alisa and Daniel Doctoroff
The Dorot Foundation
Rabbi Baruch G. Goldstein
Charles and Janet Nirenberg
Keren Klita
Mr. Arnold and Pat (z”l) Gittelson
SJCC Bnai Aaron Legacy Fund
Isaac and Robert Toussie
David Braun, MD
Daniel and Bat Ella Birnbaum
Jonathan Lopatin and Dr. Brenda Berry
Michael Gould
Harold and Beatriz Jacobsohn
Karen and David Hendler - Kremerman
Lew and Maxine Kruilwch
Anne Heyman and Seth Merrin
United Jewish Federation of Pittsburgh
Pseifas Matching Gifts Program
Ilya (Eliyahu) Ratner
Robert and Yadelle Sklare Foundation
Sosland Foundation
Barry and Paula Sonshine
Carl and Tove Sunshine
Mr. Phil Wachs and Ms. Juliet Spitzer
Toni and Aharon Weber
Bruce Whizin
Women’s League for Conservative Judaism

President’s Council ($5,000 and above)
Barry and Mimi Alperin
Lawrence Arem and Marcia Clark
Michael and Judith Berman
David and Hannah Chertok
Jake and Janet Farber
Sam and Gitta Ganz
David and Pearl Goldstein
Prof. David and Dory Golinkin
Jack and Donna Greenberg
Abraham and Dena Greenstein
Jewish Child’s Day
Shoshana and Selko Kleerekoper
Harry Kramer Memorial Fund
Sharon Moussaieff
American Friends of Neve Hanna
North Suburban Synagogue Beth El
Nitzan and Erol Primor
Gary Shiffman
Margie Tutnauer
Robert Russell Memorial Foundation
Michael and Jennifer Stein
Rick and Ann Tavan
Motti and Sarah Teperberg
Gil Troy and Linda Adams
Adir Waldman and Tamara Tapuchi
Bracha and Marty Werber

Chai Society ($1,800 and above)
Ami-Da Institute
Anonymous, Newton Center MA
Leonard and Joy Baxt
Robert and Sandra Braun
Checkpoint
Roz Clayman
Judith G. Cowan
Dr. Eugene Elovic
Ben Farahi
Scott and Linda Fayne
Robert and Michelle Friend
June Baumgardner Gelbart Foundation
Rabbi Elliot Gertel
Noemi Givon
Carol R. Glatt
Neil S. Goldstein
Sally Gottesman
Dr. Peter and Gabriela Gottlieb
Doree Hermelin
Dr. Terry Horowitz and Dr. Jim Hendler
Andrew Hochberg
Richard Kahn and Rhonda Jacobs Kahn
William Langfan
Neil J. Meiselman and Terry Schuch
Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence Mohr
David and Susan Oberman
Mazerof Endowment Fund of the Jewish Community Foundation of Pittsburgh
Keren Kayemet L’Israel

Rabbi Vernon and Bryna Kurtz
Kwitman Family Foundation
Rabbi Al (z”l) and Sarah Lewis
The Eugene Joffe Family Supporting Organization
The Rita Poretsky Memorial Fund
Allen and Susan Reiter
Dr. Paul (z”l) and Etta Rozen
Rabbi Murray and Clare Stadtmuwer
Jonathan and Barbara Steinberg
Rabbi and Mrs. James Rosen
Mr. and Mrs. Howard Turner
Tikun Olam Fund of USY
Gary and Sherry Wolff

Generosity Circle ($1,000 and above)
Ami and Dana Ariel
Rabbi Harold and Beth Berman
Kevin R. Berman and Devorah Neiman Berman
Penny and Harold Blumenstein
Rabbi Scott Bolton
Dr. Richard and Barbara Braun
Joseph Cooper
Daniel (z”l) and Barbara Drench
Steven Erbbaum
Edward and Fern Feder
Mr. Martin and Dr. Muriel Fox
Rabbi and Mrs. Baruch Frydman-Kohl
Alice and David Goldfarb
Rabbi Michael and Baruch Frydman-Kohl
Richard W. and Lillian Green
Rabbi Aaron Brusso and Hana Gruenberg
Bank Hapoalim
Rabbi Joshua and Wendy Heller
Dr. and Mrs. Alexander Hoffer
Dr. Dov and Madelyn Isaacs
Rabbi Valerie Joseph
Rabbi and Mrs. Randall Konigsburg
Law Building and Engineering
Daniel Leffel and Julie Domonkos
Rabbi Alan Iser and Ms. Sharon Liebhaber
Alan and Sharon Lipworth
Mr. Jordon Perlmutter
Albert and Arlene Perlstein
Avi Porten
Posner-Wallace Foundation
Arthur and Rachel Pottash
Jack Rosenthal
Kenneth and Andrea Saffir
Rabbi Jonathan and Beverly Schnitzer
Rabbi Ismar and Sally Schorsch
Norman and Irene Sholk
Hyman and Shirley Shwiel
Rabbi Alan and Rita Silverstein
Rabbi Zev and Phyllis Solomon
Rabbi Henry and Judy Sosland
Rabbi Elie and Linda Spitz
Ms. Standy Starkman and Mr. Larry Pachter
Steven David Stone
David Turetsky
Michael Weiss
Dr. Barry and Barbara Wenglin
Rabbi David and Eliana Wolpe

Robert Feldgaier
Amir Fink and Yossi Mori
Eric Fleiss
Herbert Fredman
William M. Freedman
Susan Galel
Rabbi Jeremy Gerber
Moshe and Jenny Gersteinhaber
Rabbi Yossi and Judy Goldman
Serge and Danielle Goldman
Rabbi Michelle and Jeffrey Goldsmith
Rabbi Howard and Pamela Gorin
Rabbi Jennifer Gorman
Rabbi Sarah Graff
Dennis and Kathy Gura
Janet R. Halbert
Rabbi and Mrs. Jules Harlow
Rabbi Judith Hauptman and Milton Adesnik
Rabbi Eliezer Havivi
Rabbi Zachary and Dr. Lynne Heller
Rabbi Hayyim and Terri Herring
Beth Hillel Beth Emunah
Rabbi Michael and Sharon Kaplowitz
Diane and Gary Katz
Richard and Rosalind Kaufman
Rabbi Jan Kaufman
Rabbi Allan Kensky
Rabbi and Mrs. Paul Kerbel
Francine and Samuel Klagsbrun
Harriet Koehler
Mr. and Mrs. Marshall Kramer
Judith Kunoff
Rabbi Alan Lavin
Rabbi and Mrs. Arthur Lavinsky
Evan Z. Lazar
Rabbi David Lerner and Sharon Levin
Rabbi and Mrs. Shalom Lewis
Rabbi and Mrs. Sheldon Lewis
Dr. Michael Och
Rabbi and Mrs. Raphael Miller
Rabbi and Mrs. Abraham Morhaim
Rabbi and Mrs. Joel Pitkowsky
Rabbi Richard and Mrs. Lisa Plavin
Lynn Povich
Rabbi and Mrs. Perry Raphael Rank
Rabbi and Mrs. Herbert Rosenblum
Rabbi Leonard Rosenthal
Rabbi and Mrs. Robert Rubin
Rabbi Neil and Susan Sandler
Daniel S. and Sally Schechter
Rabbi and Mrs. Joel Schwab
Rabbi and Mrs. Michael Schwab
David and Hannah Schwartz
Dr. and Mrs. Howard Schwartz
Rabbi Benjamin and Judith Segal
Rabbi Jack and Toby Segal
Rabbi and Mrs. A. Charles Shalman
Prof. Alice and Moshe (z”l) Shalvi
Shekel Insurance
Rabbi Marion and Mr. William Shulevitz
Rabbi and Mrs. Melvin Sirner
Rabbi Jonathan Slater
David and Rachel Sosland
Joshua and Jane Sosland
Rabbi and Mrs. Bernard Sipelman
Rabbi Elie and Linda Spitz
Tammy Steinsapir
Rabbi Ari and Jennifer Sunshine
Rabbi and Mrs. Joel Pitkowsky
Rabbi and Mrs. Eric Yanoff
Mr. and Mrs. Mark Zeichner

Friends in Deed ($180 and above)
Rabbi A. Nathan and Dr. Barbara Hillson
Abramowitz
Nancy Abramowitz and Mark Ellenberg
Congregation Adat Shalom, Paris
Colette Avital
Beth El Morning Minyan
Rabbi Joshua Berkenwald
Rabbi and Mrs. Mark Bisman
B’nai Israel Congregation Minyan Tzedakah Fund
Dr. and Mrs. Alan Bunin
Dr. Paul and Renie Carniol
Jonathan and Shira Clayman
Asher and Tamar Clayman Levy
Rabbi Alan and Linda Cohen
Eitan and Anita Besdin Cooper
Jonathan and Linda Davis
Rabbi Alexander Davis and Ms. Esther Goldberg Davis

Rabbi and Mrs. Perry Raphael Rank
Rabbi and Mrs. Herbert Rosenblum
Rabbi Leonard Rosenthal
Rabbi and Mrs. Robert Rubin
Rabbi Neil and Susan Sandler
Daniel S. and Sally Schechter
Rabbi and Mrs. Joel Schwab
Rabbi and Mrs. Michael Schwab
David and Hannah Schwartz
Dr. and Mrs. Howard Schwartz
Rabbi Benjamin and Judith Segal
Rabbi Jack and Toby Segal
Rabbi and Mrs. A. Charles Shalman
Prof. Alice and Moshe (z”l) Shalvi
Shekel Insurance
Rabbi Marion and Mr. William Shulevitz
Rabbi and Mrs. Melvin Sirner
Rabbi Jonathan Slater
David and Rachel Sosland
Joshua and Jane Sosland
Rabbi and Mrs. Bernard Sipelman
Rabbi Elie and Linda Spitz
Tammy Steinsapir
Rabbi Ari and Jennifer Sunshine
Rabbi and Mrs. Joel Pitkowsky
Rabbi and Mrs. Eric Yanoff
Mr. and Mrs. Mark Zeichner