Shavua Tov
A Good Week
@ Schechter
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 and forms an educational umbrella that includes:

- **Schechter Institute of Jewish Studies**, the largest M.A. program in Jewish Studies in Israel with 500 Israeli students and more than 1600 graduates.
- **Schechter Rabbinical Seminary** is the international rabbinical school of Masorti Judaism, serving Israel, Europe and the Americas.
- **TALI Education Fund** offers a pluralistic Jewish studies program to 48,000 children in 325 Israeli secular public schools and kindergartens.
- **Midreshet Yerushalayim** provides Jewish education to Jewish communities throughout Ukraine.
- **Midreshet Schechter** offers adult Jewish education Bet Midrash frameworks throughout Israel.
- **Neve Schechter-Legacy Heritage Center for Jewish Culture** in Neve Zedek draws 15,000 Tel Avivans every year to concerts, classes, cultural events and art exhibits.

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Dear Friends,

Last year, I told you about the leadership transitions underway at the Schechter Institute of Jewish Studies and the Schechter Rabbinical School, as well as about TALI’s 40th Anniversary. Little did I know then what challenges we would face in this transition year, as the concept of pluralistic Judaism came under attack in both the proposed conversion bill as well as the collapse of the Kotel Agreement which would have allowed all streams access to the varying parts of the Western Wall. Our leadership responded vigorously, with editorials and essays reaching major media outlets, academic conferences and outreach, as well as our ongoing efforts to provide Jewish content and education to increasing numbers of Israelis.

We now educate over 25% of all candidates for Masters Degrees in Jewish Studies in Israel. Under the dynamic leadership of Professor Doron Bar, the Schechter Institute of Jewish Studies continues to innovate with increased emphasis on engaging groups such as community workers, JCC directors, municipal managers and managers of non-profits, in addition to our core training of educators. In a few years, when they complete their studies, we hope these new graduates will carry the message of the importance of pluralistic Judaism in different contexts beyond the formal educational settings of our traditional graduates.

At the Schechter Rabbinical Seminary, Rabbi Avi Novis-Deutsch, our new Dean, established the Ashirah Program (“I Will Sing”) which will expand the role of Jewish music in Israeli society. A conference of lay and professional music leaders from different streams of Judaism helped to create the program, which goes live this year. Rabbinical School enrollment grew significantly this year to a total of 75 students, including our largest ever first year class of students pursuing ordination. Working in coordination with the Masorti Movement, we also piloted a first of its kind program for students with cognitive disabilities and we are looking to expand it from 50 participants in three locations to many hundreds of participants in multiple locations throughout Israel.

TALI continues to grow and integrate itself into the Israeli educational mainstream. Following its 40th Anniversary celebration, there have been numerous meetings with the Ministry of Education, and Ministry funding for TALI has increased significantly. Working with the Ministry, we are exploring how to dramatically increase the presence of TALI beyond the 12% of the Israeli secular elementary school system we currently serve. In a long-anticipated development, TALI is now expanding its involvement in public high schools.

In Tel Aviv’s Neve Zedek neighborhood, Neve Schechter continues to reach out to Israelis of all backgrounds and to enrich their Judaic involvement. More than 15,000 people attended holiday events, lectures and exhibits during the year. Additionally, thousands more attended services or one of the 83 B’nai Mitzvah held at the congregation in our building.

In Ukraine, the entire community banded together to help refugees from the Jewish community of Donetsk. For example, our Camp Ramah, which celebrated its 25th year, embraced multiple refugee families during its family camp. Jewish life throughout the Ukraine continues to grow; we helped to establish a new Kehilla in Odessa which after less than one year has 60 active members, as well as a new Family Education Center in Uzghorod.

Looking ahead to the coming year, I anticipate that many new challenges will come our way. There remains much work to do and we relish the opportunity to do it. Thank you for your continued support which helps to make all of our programs serving more than 65,000 children and adults possible. Wishing you a sweet New Year.

Saul I. Sanders
Chairman of the Board
The Schechter Institutes, Inc.
One hundred and twenty years ago, on August 29, 1897, Theodor Herzl opened the First Zionist Congress in Basel. Everything about that event was totally unexpected and even miraculous. An assimilated Jew from Vienna became a Zionist as the result of witnessing the public degradation of Captain Alfred Dreyfus in January of 1895. Herzl was told by a friend that his plan for a Jewish State was the product of an overstrained mind and he urged Herzl to seek medical treatment. Jewish leaders told him that his plan was “a Utopia of the fantasy” and “Kuckucksei” (cuckooness).

From an objective point of view, he was insane and they were right. Despite being rejected by the leading Jewish financiers of his time, he announced the First Congress, organized it, paid for it and convinced over 200 delegates to come from 17 countries to participate. The Congress produced the Basel Program, galvanized the Jewish world, and formed the Zionist movement that created the Jewish State. Shortly after the Congress closed, Herzl wrote in his diary: “In Basel I created the Jewish State… But perhaps five years hence, in any case, certainly fifty years hence, everyone will perceive it.” He was off by one year.

However, there is one area where his prophecy did not come true. He wrote: “Zionism is the return to Judaism even before it is the return to the Land of the Jews”. Unfortunately, the Labor Zionists who founded the State had other ideas. They rejected Judaism as a product of the Diaspora and 2,000 years of Exile and they and their successors made sure that 65% of the children in Israel who attend the secular public schools would only learn Bible and no other Jewish subjects.

I recently sat on a plane next to two bright young men in their 20s who work in hi-tec. They had grown up together in Herzliya, the town named for Theodor Herzl. They were leaving Israel for a fieldtrip of 23 days in order to avoid all the Jewish holidays of Tishrei. I told them that I was a Professor of Jewish studies and one of them asked: “What is there left to teach or research?” They had no idea that there was anything in Jewish studies other than Tanach, the Bible. They proceeded to pepper me with questions about the creation story, kashrut and other aspects of Judaism. These two bright young men had not “returned to Judaism”; they had no clue what Judaism is.

This is the reason why we at the Schechter Institutes have been teaching Jewish studies for over 40 years and it is also the reason why our programs continue to grow and flourish at an exponential rate as described in the letter by our Chair, Saul Sanders. An entire generation of Israelis has a huge number of questions about Judaism like the two young men, and they are now looking for answers. Their quest is epitomized by the people profiled in this year’s annual report. From Schechter M.A. student David Hasson to the five students profiled from the Schechter Rabbinical Seminary; from TALI Principal Nira Merom to TALI parent and educator Sophie Fellman Rafalovitz; from Neve Schechter artist-in-residence Judy Tal Kopelman to Hannah and Zeev Vaksman, founders of our Kehillah in Odessa – these are all dynamic young leaders who are learning as much as possible about Judaism to satisfy their own needs and so that they can teach others about Judaism in an open and inviting fashion.

That is why the Schechter Institutes now teach and reach over 65,000 children and adults every year. With your support, we shall continue to expand and deepen these programs in years to come, so that Herzl’s dream of the return to Judaism as an integral part of Zionism shall come to pass. And as Herzl himself said: “if you will it; it is no dream”.

Rabbi Prof. David Golinkin
President
The Schechter Institutes, Inc.
This year, Israel will be marking a major milestone: the 70th anniversary of the founding of the State of Israel. Indeed, May 14, 1948 was a turning point in the annals of Jewish history. After 2,000 years, the Jewish people bravely fought and re-gained self-governance and statehood. But today, paradoxically, how many of the more than 6 million Jewish citizens of Israel truly live the inextricable link that binds Israeli sovereignty to the Jewish national, cultural and religious experience of our people? If anything, Judaism has become a major point of contention, dividing, rather than uniting the nation.

The Schechter Institutes, for over 40 years, has taught inclusive, pluralistic Jewish studies to tens of thousands of Israelis, enabling them to connect their modern Zionism to a rich Jewish past and heritage. Through hundreds of formal and informal Jewish education programs, the Graduate School, Rabbinical Seminary, TALI Education Fund, Neve Schechter in Tel Aviv and Midreshet Schechter have made a difference in defining the Jewish character of Israel. This year’s Annual Report is a testament to this crucial work and a road map for Jewish identity in the Jewish State for the next seventy years.
At 28, David Hasson seems little older than the 1,000 participants (aged 14-16) he oversees in the Aharai (Follow Me!) Youth Challenge Program. Yet, together with a group of counselors in 80 locations around Israel, David is charting a new course for many of the program’s teens who are stuck at the social, economic and geographic fringe of Israeli society. “There is so much strength in these kids, but they have been forgotten. Our job is to make them believe in themselves and in their capabilities for personal change,” says David. He and his team provide structure through vigorous field and nature outings, community service programs and leadership workshops.

David’s passion for community service is reflected in the two parallel tracks he has built for his life: education alongside social action. While a high school student in Jerusalem, he helped found a clubhouse for youth-at-risk. After completing his army service, David directed a food distribution center. He then went on to a position at “Follow Me!,” counseling Ethiopian youngsters while studying for his B.A. This motivation to learn and to give brought David to Schechter’s Maccabi M.A. program where he is a full-time student while maintaining his intense work load. “Maccabi” (acronym for Community Leadership in the Jewish Spirit) is designed to develop Jewish leadership skills for community activists, offering them essential tools for field work with text study rooted in Jewish values, knowledge and customs.

“The lectures and the on-going dialogue with my classmates are an inspiration, directly enriching my work experience. Schechter has allowed me a “time-out” where I have the quiet and repose to actually think about what I am doing.”

A Good Week for David:

“When something I’ve learned at Schechter has opened up a new direction of thought; leading to innovation that I take out to my “Field of Kids”, empowering their “Field of Dreams.”

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This year’s focus is on the entire Schechter Bet Midrash, filled with learning from the early morning ’till the evening... every day of the week.

Eight new rabbinical students began the program in September 2016. 20 students were enrolled in the new Torah Lishma (Torah for its Own Sake) program and 30 in the Mishlei program. Joining their Israeli rabbinic colleagues were five South American students from the Seminario Rabinico and eight JTS students. In 2017-18, Ziegler students will also join some study programs.

Meet just a few of the impressive new members of the Schechter Rabbinical Seminary:

**Shoham Morua** M.A. in Criminology and a B.Ed. in math; teaches at the Reut High School, Israel’s first religious pluralistic school; community leader at the Ein Prat minyan; from a traditional Orthodox home.

**David Arias** Coordinator of Marom-NOAM Gap-Year Program; aliyah from Santiago Chile in 2014 where he was a guiding force of the NOAM movement; studied in Schechter Mishlei program before joining rabbinical program.

**Yosef Baruch** Social activist and hi-tec "maven"; a leader of the Social Justice Protest Movement; B.Sc. in Computer Science, M.A. in Philosophy (Haifa University) and M.B.A (Technion); raised in mixed Jewish/Arab Haifa neighborhood; from a secular home.

**Irina Gritsevskaya** Born in St. Petersburg; came to Israel alone at age 17; after completing B.A. in Law (Hebrew University) and M.A. (Bar Ilan University), she traveled to JTS for an M.A. in Jewish Philosophy; active in Tel Aviv’s Kehillat Ramat Aviv.

**Rami Tamam** Worked for years in the elite Israeli Police Criminal Investigation Unit; active in Modi'in’s pluralistic Yachad school and synagogue; helps lead an Orthodox inclusive minyan; grew up in a traditional (Sefardic) home.

*Shavua Tov • A Good Week @ Schechter*

**A Good Week for the SRS Dean:**

“When I meet people and organizations who want to partner with us because of the way we teach Torah, understanding that within the walls of our Bet Midrash we are searching for answers to the biggest questions in life.”

Rabbi Avi Novis-Deutsch, Dean
Nira Merom
Principal, TALI Yachad School, Givat Ela; Student in the Haleli Jewish Studies program for TALI Principals

Sophie Fellman Rafalovitz
Head of TALI Givat Ela PTA; Educational Director of Kibbutz Hannaton’s afternoon Jewish Studies Program; Student in TALI’s Academic Leadership Program; TALI Hod Hasharon Graduate

One senses the pure synergy flowing between Nira Merom and Sophie Fellman the minute they come together. Both are educators. Both are community-minded. Both are passionately committed to the success of the TALI Yachad School, located in the heartland of Israeli secular Zionism: The Jezreel Valley.

“We are in a continual process of dialogue, showing how beautiful Judaism can be — both its texts and values,” says Nira, who together with Sophie has worked extensively building bridges between the school’s parents. The group represents a wide spectrum ranging from traditional families, many coming from Masorti’s Kibbutz Hannaton nearby, to staunch secularists. Sophie sees a big change in attitudes. “There is no longer that fear to say ‘we are a Jewish-Zionist school.’ I am proud that I have two children learning here.”

Nira and Sophie are enrolled in TALI’s new northern leadership programs: Nira in the Haleli non-academic program for TALI principals based in Ramat Yishay and Sophie in the Oranim College academic program for TALI educators, near Haifa. “Haleli has been mind-opening for me,” says Nira. “The studies at times reach a spiritual intensity. Nothing is more beneficial professionally than being able to learn and network with my TALI colleagues living in the North.”

Sophie rotates between two professions – occupational therapy and Jewish education – reflecting her love of community. In addition to assuming the Chair of the Masorti Movement in January and heading up the school’s PTA, Sophie is educational director of Hannaton’s after-school Jewish studies program. “My goal is to instill in my students a love of modern Judaism and the ability to look at it in a critical way – starting with knowledge, evolving into Jewish identity and finally Jewish practice – to where you actually ‘own’ your Judaism.”

A Good Week for Sophie and Nira:
“When we inspire the kids to really debate and grapple with spiritual and ethical questions. That’s a good week for building education.”

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Judy Tal Kopelman is disarming. Petite, with a great smile and genuine sensitivity, she exudes calm and tranquility. Yet, watch out. Here is a powerhouse of energy, intellectual depth and creative talent.

A descendent of the Ba’al Shem Tov and grandparents who survived Bergen Belsen, Judy is an amalgam of both academic achievement (her father, Prof. Uri Tal z”l was a respected scholar of Contemporary Jewish History), Jewish knowledge and social activism. She has earned degrees from Haifa University in Fine Arts and Psychology and a degree in Visual Communications from Jerusalem’s Bezalel Academy; Judy has produced a major archival project at Yad Vashem and written two well-received books related to the Holocaust: “Grandpa’s Third Drawer” for children and “The Demon from Berlin”.

“As a graffiti artist, I am engaged in bringing warring groups together. My works are thought-provoking, but always with a consensus in mind and a language that speaks to all,” says Judy. With murals depicting chapters from Psalms and Genesis in Haifa, Tel Aviv and Jerusalem, as part of the nation-wide “929” Tanach Project (there are 929 chapters in the Bible), Judy demands that her audience “bring a fresh commentary to our Jewish sources. I want my works to be physical. To immerse meaning into our daily lives. To move the eye and the heart.”

As one of the resident artists at Neve Schechter, Judy teaches a creative writing workshop, mentors and moderates literary events, and splashes color onto the walls at 42 Chelouche Street. Her graffiti works include: “Goddess of Justice” for a High Holiday exhibit and “A Tribute to Agnon” on display last year. Looking ahead, she is planning a “wall” commemorating Leah Goldberg to coincide with a new cultural series Neve Schechter is offering on the ‘greats’ in Hebrew literature.

A Good Week for Judy:

“The genre of street art sends a social message: that public space is for all. The possibility of taking art outside the walls of the museum changes the urban landscape. I am doing that at Neve Schechter.”
Hannah and Zeev Vaksman are together building a vibrant Jewish community in Odessa. Zeev, 35, an economist and theologian, is a powerhouse of ideas with the energy to implement. Hannah, more reserved, is the backbone of the Kehillah, organizing many of the activities with a gentle and knowledgable touch.

Their is a winning combination. In just a few years, the community has almost doubled, reaching 60 members. “Our premises are now too small,” says Zeev, “and so, we are happily looking for a larger space.”

Zeev grew up in Odessa with no Jewish education in what he terms “a typical Soviet Jewish family.” “We safe-kept a prayerbook that originally belonged to my great-grandfather. We ate chicken soup with matzah on Passover, but the symbolism of the matzah was never explained,” he remembers. Intellectually curious and charismatic, he began to strengthen his Jewish identity, joining various local Jewish institutions. “I always wanted to create a community that would be liberal yet observant,” says Zeev. Meeting Schechter graduate Rabbi Reuven Stamov, leader of Masorti Judaism in Ukraine, Zeev found the perfect fit.

Hannah, 32, an architect by profession, comes from an assimilated Jewish home in Kishenev. A friend told her about Hillel where she began attending activities. She met Zeev at a Jewish event and the two were married three years later under a huppah officiated by Rabbi Stamov. She has since studied the laws of Kashrut, earning certification as a “Mashgiah” (Kashrut Supervisor), which she practiced at this year’s Camp Ramah-Ukraine. “My love for Judaism and the Jewish people is such a big part of my life,” says Hannah. “I get great satisfaction sharing this feeling with the Jews of my community.”

Both Zeev and Hannah teach at Kehillat Tiferet. They attended Midreshet Yerushalayim Teacher’s Seminar this past year, as well as Camp Ramah Ukraine and the Ramah Family Camp, where they both taught.

A Good Week for Zeev and Hannah:
“Success is many Jews of all ages enjoying our Kabbalat Shabbat and meal; Havdalah service and Jewish tradition lecture; Sunday school classes; children’s choir; culinary midrash class... and Hebrew ulpan which just opened!”

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Graduation Ceremony

86 Schechter M.A. degrees were conferred on July 4, 2017 in Jerusalem. Three outstanding graduates spoke about Jerusalem in honor of the 50th anniversary of the reunification of Israel’s capital.

Academic Appointments

Dr. Batsheva Margalit-Stern was promoted to Associate Professor in the field of Women’s Studies and Jewish History.

• Dr. Tamar Kadari was promoted to Senior Lecturer in Midrash.

New Academic Initiatives

Schechter + “HaKubia” = Creativity Enhanced by Jewish Knowledge

Ma’aseh Hoshev (“Informed Creations”) is a new partnership forged between Jerusalem’s “HaKubia” School of Painting and Sculpture and Schechter’s Judaism and the Arts M.A. program. “HaKubia’s” campus, in close proximity to Schechter, trains students to teach art in the informal education system. Opening in 2016-17, the program offers courses combining text study with “hands-on” workshops in dance, music and the visual arts.

Maccabi (Community Leadership in the Jewish Spirit)

Having entered its third year, Maccabi has met with great success, with 28 community activists from around the country enrolled. The program empowers community-based professional leadership, awarding an M.A. in Family and Community Studies.

Marpeh Program to offer Supervisory Specialization

Marpeh, the only academic chaplaincy program in Israel, grants a degree through the Family and Community Studies M.A. track. This year, the program, funded by the New York Federation, is opening a new supervisory track curriculum for four students, in addition to the 24 spiritual care students engaged in different stages of their training.

Research Partnership with Birthright

The successful Birthright Program which has brought tens of thousands of young Jewish students and professionals
to Israel has chosen Schechter to collaborate on a joint research project: *Zion and the Diaspora in the Past, Present and Future*. The idea of an interdisciplinary research group brought to Schechter by Birthright’s Dr. Muli Brug, is headed by Schechter’s Prof. Yossi Turner. Comprised of scholars from Israel and the Diaspora, the forum will convene two research conferences during 2017-2019.

**Judaism and Evolution Conference & Book**
Schechter’s Center for the Study of Bio-social Perspectives in Judaism hosted the 3rd International Conference on Judaism and Evolution, Dec. 28-29, 2016, which was sponsored by the Binah Yitzrit Foundation and organized by Dr. Paul Shrell-Fox. *Judaism from an Evolutionary Perspective*, proceedings from the First Intl. Conference on Judaism and Evolution, was published in 2016.

**Changing of the Guard**

Yehoshua Greenberg, Head Librarian for the last 25 years retired in October 2016. We wish him all success. Esther Blatman, who has worked in the library for years, is the Acting Librarian.

Nira Golan, Administrative Secretary for the Graduate School, is retiring after 22 years of devoted service marked by professionalism and a true love of her students. Naomi Dupres, who for many years worked for the TALI Education Fund in administration, will assume the position. We wish both of them continued success in the years ahead.

**Scholarships & Fellowships**
- **William Davidson Scholarships** awarded to all first-year students
- **Judge Simon Rifkind and Harry Meresman Scholarships for Outstanding Scholarship and Commitment to Jewish Pluralism** awarded to 8 exceptional first-year students
- **The Dr. Aubey Rotenberg z”l Memorial Scholarships** awarded to two exceptional students
- **The Mimi and Barry Alperin Jewish Educator Scholarships** awarded to two exceptional students
- **The Prof. Louis Ginzberg Scholarships in Talmud** awarded to two students
- **The Larry and Marcia Arem Special Scholarships to Advance Jewish Education in Development Towns** awarded to two students
- **Scholarships for Teachers in Development Towns and Disadvantaged Neighborhoods** awarded to 10 students
- **Jewish Agency for Israel Jewish Renewal Scholarships for Macabbi Community Engagement Program** awarded to 28 students
- **Jewish Agency for Israel Jewish Renewal Scholarships for Community Engagement in Kiryat Yovel neighborhood** awarded to 5 students
- **Prof. Alice Shalvi Scholarships for Outstanding Students in Judaism and the Arts** awarded to two students
- **The Edythe Griffinger Scholarship to Advance Jewish Education in Development Towns** awarded to an exceptional student
- **Keren Kayemet L’Yisrael Academic Excellence Prize** awarded to two students in Land of Israel Studies
- **Scholarships for M.A. Students in the TALI Leadership Program** awarded to 11 TALI school teachers
- **New Kekst Faculty Fellow, 2017-19**: Dr. Tamar Kadari, Senior Lecturer and Head of the Midrash and Aggadah Program

1. A special conference at Schechter honors Drs. Brenda Bacon (center) and George Savran (right) on their retirement, with Presidents Prof. Doron Bar (left) and Prof. David Golinkin presenting an award. 2. Dr. Einat Ramon (left), Head of the Marpeh chaplaincy program with program graduates at a spiritual care conference organized by Schechter and held there. 3. Maccabi M.A. Community Leadership students with lecturer Dr. Ya’akov Maoz. 4. Dr. Jo Milgrom (bottom right) posing with this year’s “Handmade Midrash” students at the program’s final exhibit at Schechter. 5. Graduation excitement as Land of Israel M.A. graduates receive their degrees in July.
Schechter Scholarship for the Community

New Books 2016-17
Published by the Schechter Institute
Responsa in a Moment, Vol. 4, David Golinkin, Jerusalem: Schechter Institute, 2017
Kohelet Rabbah, Chapters 1-6, ed. Marc Hirschman; series editor: David Golinkin, Jerusalem: Schechter Institute, 2016 (Hebrew)
Minhah L’Yehudah: Julius Theodor and the Redaction of the Aggadic Midrashim of the Land of Israel, ed. Tamar Kadari, Jerusalem: co-published with Leo Baeck, 2017 (Hebrew)
Judaism from an Evolutionary Perspective, ed. Dr. Paul Shrell-Fox, Jerusalem: Schechter Institute, 2016 (Hebrew)

NASHIM, A Journal of Jewish Women’s Studies and Gender Issues, academic editor, Renée Levine Melammed, managing editor, Deborah Greniman, a joint publication of the Schechter Institute, Hadassah-Brandeis Institute and Indiana University Press: No. 31: Spring/Fall 2017

Published by Schechter Faculty
The Origins of Midrash: From Teaching to Text, Paul Mandel, Leiden: E.J. Brill, 2017

Schechter and the World Congress of Jewish Studies
The prestigious 17th World Congress of Jewish Studies was held in Jerusalem August 6-10, 2017, with a large number of Schechter faculty invited to lecture, including: Paul Mandel, George Savran, Yossi Turner, Ari Ackerman, David Golinkin, Galia Glasner Heled, Renée Levine Melammed, Alexander Even-Chen, David Frankel, Tamar Kadari, Noa Yuval-Hacham, Etka Liebowitz, Shulamit Laderman, Bat-Sheva Margalit Stern and Gila Vachman.

Seminars Honoring Prof. Eliezer Schweid at WCJS
A 3-session seminar organized by Prof. Yossi Turner (Schechter) and Dr. Yehoyada Amir (HUC) on the scholarship and philosophy of Eliezer Schweid took place at the World Congress of Jewish Studies. The evening session, open to the general public, took place at Schechter.

Conferences and Lectures Sponsored by Schechter
Third Annual Pirkei Avot Lecture in memory of Dr. Aubey Rotenberg z”l, “Seek a Rabbi” or “Hate the Rabbinate”? The Rabbinate in Israel from the Mishnah to
Today, Schechter Rabbinical Seminary, September 2017

Festive Study Evening Honoring Prof. Eliezer Schweid, a founder of the Schechter academic program and a titan of Contemporary Jewish Thought, Schechter Institute, August 2017

Creativity, Innovation and Jewish Music Workshop for RA members, Schechter Rabbinical Seminary, with Rabbi Hayyim Herring and Shai Tzabari, July 2017

18th Annual National Women’s Study Day, with over 300 participants! Schechter, June 2017

Annual Schechter-Keren Kayemet L’Yisrael Jerusalem Conference, The Kotel Since 1967 and the Controversy Surrounding non-Orthodox Prayer at the Kotel, June 2017

Annual Yom Hashoah Commemoration, The History of Yad Vashem, Prof. Doron Bar, followed by the Reading of the Shoah Scroll, April 2017

Evening of study to honor the publication of Yuvalei Ahavah, in memory of Yuval Heiman z”l who fell in battle near Gaza, April 2017

Annual Women’s and Gender Academic Conference in memory of Moshe Shalvi z”l, The Jewish Mother Between East and West, March 2017

Academic Conference on the Talmud Honoring the 80th birthday of Prof. Shamma Friedman, Schechter Institute, March 2017

Three Annual Regional Masorti Women’s Study Days, sponsored by Midreshet Schechter, February 2017

Annual Rabbi David Aronson Memorial Lecture, Kohelet: The Man and His Quest, in honor of the publication of Kohelet’s Pursuit of Truth by Rabbi Benjamin Segal, Kehillat Moreshet Avraham, Jerusalem, January 2017

A Conference on Bible, Education and Gender, Multiple Narratives, in honor of the retirement of Drs. Brenda Bacon and George Savran, Schechter Institute, January 2017

3rd Academic Conference of Schechter’s Center for the Study of Bio-Social Perspectives in Judaism, Judaism from an Evolutionary Perspective, December 2016

Research Institutes

The Center for Judaism and the Arts includes the M.A. track in Judaism and the Arts and TALI’s Visual Midrash website which includes 950 explicated images of art arranged according to 27 Biblical themes.

The Center for Women in Jewish Law has published a series of books and periodicals by and about women in Jewish Law which can be found online.

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 over 30 popular and scholarly volumes.

The Center for the Study of Bio-social Perspectives in Judaism promotes research of evolution and Jewish religious practice, convenes an international conference bi-annually and sponsors two research fellowships.

The Midrash Project is publishing critical editions of Midrashim. Published to date: Legends of the Jews, Midrash Shmuel, Midrash Hadash al HaTorah, Midrash Esther Rabbah, Kohelet Rabbah, Vol. 1 and Minhah L’Yehudah, with synoptic editions of Midrash Shmuel, Esther Rabbah, Kohelet Rabbah and Shir Hashirim Rabbah on Schechter websites.
**Mishlei Academic Bet Midrash Shifts Direction**

Mishlei, the two-year Bet Midrash/M.A. program instituted meaningful change this year to its educational goals and curriculum. Targeting young adults, the new program stresses the strong connection between Jewish academic studies, Jewish renewal and practical community work, honing skills in all these areas. Feedback has been very positive.

*Many Mishlei graduates are engaged in educational leadership roles.* Graduates include a high school principal, a leading modern Orthodox educator and the CEO of the Hanaton Educational Center. Since Mishlei started six years ago, seven graduates have continued for rabbinic studies, with several already receiving ordination.

**Torah Lishmah for the Public**

*Torah Lishmah* (Torah for its Own Sake) opened its doors in Fall 2016 to over 20 students, offering intensive study of Jewish sources in a Bet Midrash atmosphere based on an open and critical approach. Every Wednesday the Bet Midrash hosted a diverse group of students of all ages, many with influential positions in Jewish renewal, including: two heads of Masorti congregations; Director of MAROM, (Conservative student organization); CEO of Tzav Piyus, a secular-religious dialogue organization; and the spokesperson for Kolech, a modern Orthodox feminist organization.

**A Bet Midrash for Special Needs Population**

A first-of-its-kind pilot program offering Bet Midrash studies for people with cognitive disabilities has met with unprecedented success. A joint project of SRS, Akim and the Adraba Masorti Center, the program opened in 2016 with one center. This year, SRS developed a 10-session curriculum on “the interpersonal mitzvot.”

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**Significant Growth in 2016-17**

The Schechter Rabbinical Seminary more than doubled the number of its students in 2016-17, due in large measure to a successful recruitment campaign, a strengthening of ties with other Masorti institutions, a re-defining of existing programs and the establishment of a new Bet Midrash program for the general public.

- A total of 75 students learned in the Schechter Rabbinical Seminary:
  - 12 rabbinical students (including eight 1st year students)
  - 30 Mishlei students (a 60% increase over last year)
  - 20 students in the new Torah Lishmah program;
  - 8 JTS students and 5 Seminario Rabinico students
The courses, attended by 50 participants, took place in Jerusalem, Rishon Lezion and Rehovot, and for many of the attendees, the experience was life-changing. SRS student Matan Stein acted as one of the facilitators.

**Toward 2017-18:** Expansion into 6-8 locations.

### Derachim (Ways) New Media Project

The Derachim New Media Project, in memory of Rabbi Marc and Dr. Henia z’l Liebhaber, went online this year. Utilizing popular social network platforms to disseminate Jewish values found in pluralistic Judaism, the project is designed to foster a conversation about Judaism and religious tolerance among Israelis. Derachim is slated to reach 10,000 users by the end of 2017.

### Cooperation with NOAM Grows

SRS worked closely with the NOAM youth movement, developing content for NOAM’s educational activities. Students and staff of SRS, including the Dean, participated in national NOAM projects. **Toward 2017-18:** NOAM pre-army program participants and staff will study at Schechter one full day a month.

### Rabbinic Intern Program

SRS believes that the training of outstanding spiritual leaders must include practical experience in Masorti communities. The following Rabbinic Fellows worked one day a week and one Shabbat a month in their partnered community, bringing new vitality and program ideas:

- **Yerah Meiersdorf**, Kehillat Eshel Avraham, Beersheva;
- **Idit Mevorach**, Kehillat Moriah, Haifa;
- **Raanan Mallek**, Kehillat V’ahavta, Zichron Ya’akov;
- **Yosef Baruch**, Kehillat Magen Avraham, Omer.

SRS interns were also involved in other areas of community work, including: **Rami Tamam** who composed a children’s siddur for use by all streams of Judaism in Israel and **Eliora Peretz** who organized a weekly Bet Midrash for French-speakers at the Conservative Yeshiva.

### The Importance of Inter-Faith Programming

SRS continues to value and develop its interfaith programs with the Netherlands Israel Study Institute, with whom it organizes joint study conferences. SRS is a member of the Inter-religious Coordinating Council in Israel (ICCI).

### Looking Ahead: 2017-18

#### 28th SRS Ordination - December 2017

Two rabbis will be ordained at the Schechter Beit Midrash in Jerusalem on December 4, 2017. They are **Yerah Meiersdorf** (Yerah) Meiersdorf who is assuming the national position of NOAM Rabbi and **Sara Cohen** who will serve as rabbi of Kibbutz Ketura near Eilat. In addition, recent graduate **Rabbi Dikla Druckman** is the new spiritual leader of Kehillat Magen Avraham in Omer, near Beersheva and **Rabbi Barry Schlesinger**, returning from North America, now leads Kehillat Torat Hayim in Herzliya.

#### Music as a Jewish Experience: The Ashira Program

In the 2017-18 academic year, the Ashira Jewish Music Program will open. The visionary program will train music leaders by integrating personal experience with learning, emphasizing Bet Midrash study and individual work. Some of the program graduates will lead prayers in synagogues and other places; others will use the curriculum in educational settings; and some will create musical works based on Jewish sources.
Numbers 2016-17

- 108 schools and 215 pre-schools, totaling 323 TALI frameworks serving 48,000 pupils; including 11 new schools and 33 new pre-schools
- 24 pedagogic counselors worked in all 108 schools and 105 pre-schools and kindergartens with over 3,900 teachers
- 2 additional Educational Leadership Programs were opened in the north
- 16 graduates of the TALI Leadership Program received Schechter M.A. degrees
- TALI Principals' Forum held 4 regional seminars attended by over 80 principals and coordinators
- Sales of TALI textbooks generated $170,000; with some textbooks now digitalized and available online
- 11 TALI rabbis worked in 38 TALI schools
- Dialogue and Identity Co-existence Program for Jewish and Arab children operated in 22 schools
- 6 "Shirat Halev" music festivals for choirs, dance and orchestras included 1,250 students from 35 schools
- 40 "Niggunim" music and theatre workshops attracted 2,000 parents and children

New Leadership Centers Opened

TALI opened two new programs in the north with the objective of reaching greater numbers of TALI educators. The Haleli program drew 11 principals to its weekly sessions at Ramat Yishay in the Jezreel Valley. Offering Jewish texts (studied in the Bet Midrash style) as well as lectures and tours, Haleli’s one-year program culminated in a Fall 2017 study trip to the U.S. where TALI principals met with Jewish leaders and engaged professionally with Jewish educators.

TALI Celebrates 40 Years of Pluralistic Jewish Education

This year marked the 40th anniversary of TALI education in Israel. A special celebration attended by 3,900 TALI educators and leadership from Israel and abroad took place at the Caesarea Amphitheater in September 2016. The “happening” garnered national exposure and created direct contact with the Minister of Education. His important endorsement has already resulted in a significant increase in Ministry funding.

TALI Expansion Continues

In Fall 2016, 11 schools and 33 pre-schools joined the TALI Network, with a total of 48,000 pupils learning in 108 schools and 215 pre-schools. This significant growth has given TALI a 12% share of all elementary schools in the secular public school system. The TALI Education Fund (TEF) works with municipalities and the Ministry of Education in creating “Total” TALI towns, such as Yokneam and Ma’aleh Adumim.

In 2017-18, TALI will add six new schools to its nationwide network.

Pilot High School Programs Open

In Fall 2017, two high school pilot programs were launched by TALI together with the Ministry of Education and private sponsors. In Yokneam, where all its elementary schools are TALI, a program to strengthen Jewish identity for 7th and 8th graders was initiated. On the national level, TALI is creating a curriculum on Jewish Thought for all 10th graders, to begin in Fall 2018.
A record 29 teachers and principals learned in the Oranim, Haleli and veteran Jerusalem program at Schechter. Since its inception in 2001, the TALI Educational Leadership Program has graduated 281 educators from 85 TALI schools, with most going on for an M.A. degree at Schechter.

Haleli Opens in Modi'in and Lod

In 2017-18, the Haleli Educational Leadership Program opened two new study centers in Modi'in and in Lod.

New Bar/Bat Mitzvah Program

A TALI Bar/Bat Mitzvah program was piloted in seven schools, reaching 450 6th graders. Schools chose from 15 workshops dealing with themes of maturity, mitzvot and ceremony, with an emphasis on female empowerment.

Dialogue and Identity Going Strong

TALI’s Dialogue and Identity program, now in its 11th year, provides a positive educational experience for 660 children from 11 TALI schools and 11 Arab schools. The children study a curriculum of “Three Religions in the Holy Land” in their home schools, then present their own traditions in a series of meetings between the paired TALI and Christian/Muslim schools.

TALI Online

A new social media director was hired, resulting in improved SEO for the TALI website, as well as greater accessibility of online materials. 25,000 users retrieve information from TALI sites monthly. TALI developed an active page on Facebook, more than quadrupling its “followers” over the last year.

TALI Textbooks and Curriculum Resources

Ministry of Education Turns to TALI

For some years, the Ministry of Education has selected TALI to produce books for its Jewish culture series which are used in all Israeli secular schools. This year, the Ministry chose TEF to publish books for all 3rd, 4th, 5th and 6th grades on building Jewish-Israeli identity.

Adama: on Ecology in Jewish Sources

TALI’s newest multi-year curriculum, Adama (2nd-6th grades) integrates Jewish texts with the world around us. Piloted in four schools, the program went online in Fall 2017 for use by the general public.

Rosh Hodesh Website

Launched in 2016, the site highlights themes of each Hebrew month through a variety of creative materials based on Jewish texts, art and literature. It has already recorded over 5,000 hits.

TALI Develops More Curricula in Spanish and Portuguese

New TALI resources on the High Holidays, Sukkot, Memorial Day, Independence Day and the Weekly Torah Portion were developed in Spanish and Portuguese and are used in 30 Jewish day schools in Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay, Chile and Ecuador.

Games for Fun and Learning

TALI has created two new exciting board games. The Chanukah Game includes holiday activities and ways to enrich the candle lighting ceremony. Jerusalem Potpourri, already used in 250 schools, was produced in honor of the 50th anniversary of Jerusalem’s reunification.
Neve Schechter
Legacy Heritage Center for Jewish Culture

Executive Director: Yonit Kolb-Reznitzki
Educational Advisor: Rabbi Roberto Arbib

83 children and their parents held their Bar/Bat Mitzvah in the Atid Sanctuary • A creative “Storah-Telling” led by Rabbi Roberto Arbib, which precedes Kabbalat Shabbat twice monthly, draws up to 20 children

Celebrating the Holidays

■ Tisha B’Av: 120 participants. Reading of Lamentations; followed by Prof. Amia Lieblich on Home and Restlessness and a tour of The Restless exhibit, July 2017
■ Shavuot: 350 participants. All night study with writers, poets and musicians sharing their perspectives on alternative cultural heroes, May 2017
■ Holocaust Memorial Day: 200 participants. The Shoah Through the Lens of Comics, artist Michael Kishka on his autobiographical book, April 2017
■ Passover for Children: 120 participants. Creative activities for the family, April 2017
■ Purim Events: 600 participants. Opening of Purim Exhibit with musical event, Gallery Talks; Megillah Reading/Concert; 1960s Purim Ball, March 2017
■ Tu B’Shvat: 70 participants. Seder Tu B’shvat and photography exhibit opening, February 2017
■ Hanukkah/Kislev Happenings: 250 participants. Concert and Exhibition Opening of Lilith; Hanukkah story telling and candle lighting, December 2017
■ High Holiday Programming: 750 participants. Sukkot: Family celebration and music concerts for children; Liturgy for Yom Kippur; Liturgy for Rosh Hashana; Concert and Opening of Destiny/Tishrei art exhibition; October-November 2017
■ The Atelier Children’s Program: 40-50 parents and children meet twice weekly in the Simha and Sara Lainer Family Bet Midrash, with activities that correspond to the Hebrew calendar and holidays.

Numbers 2016-17
15,000 people attended lectures, holiday events and exhibits during the year, in addition to thousands of worshippers and guests who attended 83 Bar-/Bat Mitzvah ceremonies in the Atid Sanctuary.

Neve Schechter: A Magnet for Jewish Renewal
Neve Schechter, located in Tel Aviv’s trendy Neve Zedek neighborhood, presents Israeli culture as an ongoing dialogue and point of engagement between contemporary life and Jewish sources. The center is recognized as a leading venue for Jewish culture and renewal in Tel Aviv and beyond.

Liebhaber Center for Family Jewish Education
The 6,500 sq. ft. three-floor facility will include two early childhood classrooms, a large multipurpose room for cultural and educational activities and the offices of Neve Schechter. Building plans have been finalized, with construction to commence in spring 2018.

The Masorti Kehillah of Neve Zedek
Neve Schechter houses the Masorti Congregation of Neve Zedek, led by Rabbi Roberto Arbib, which embraces families and individuals who seek an inclusive and spiritual community. In the heart of secular Tel Aviv, the Kehillah continues to expand its base of young families.

Neve Schechter
Legacy Heritage Center for Jewish Culture

Executive Director: Yonit Kolb-Reznitzki
Educational Advisor: Rabbi Roberto Arbib

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New Initiatives 2016-17

70 Voices
A musical project acting as a bridge between contemporary language and ancient Jewish texts, launched with three sold-out performances:

- **Spirit and Matter**: Leonard Cohen, commentary and music dedicated to the master songwriter and poet, July 2017
- **Words of Poetry**: Shavuot Study Night, two Israeli musicians performed Jewish liturgy from their Yemenite and Moroccan backgrounds, May 2017
- **Melody of the Neighborhood**: the Israeli Sephardic music scene and the revival of piyyut, liturgical poetry, March 2017

The “Good Book” Launch Club

- **Bright Day in the City**: 17 Walking Tours in Tel Aviv-Jaffa by Hadas Regev-Yarkoni, with residents, including Deputy Mayor Mahareta Baruch-Ron, sharing personal stories, April 2017
- **Tangle of Matter and Ghost**: Leonard Cohen’s Post-Secular Songbook of Mysticism(s) Jewish and Beyond by Rabbi Dr. Aharon Glazer (San Francisco), July 2017
- **Leo Lane** by Ofer Regev, September 2017

Jewish and Israeli Art on Exhibit
Neve Schechter sponsored Jewish art exhibits curated by Shira Friedman and enriched by monthly gallery events:

- **The Restless/Sivan**, solo exhibition by Shai Abady, with special gallery talks, May-September 2017
- **Stripes, Dots and Sometimes Checks/Adar**, iconic early Israeli fashion, March 2017
- **I’m an Optimist**, works of the late Dudu Geva, popular Israeli cartoonist, February 2017
- **The “Artists’ Lab”**, in the Morris and Beverly Baker Foundation Art Room, where three artists are creating and contributing to the cultural life at Neve Schechter. (See profile, page 8).

Innovation in the Bet Midrash

- **The Actors’ Bet Midrash**: 7 actors, led by Rabbi Roberto Arbib, studied the Paradox of the Holy Torah Ark Curtain (Parochet), culminating in **Threshold**, a 4-day exhibition of interdisciplinary works based on their study of the Parochet. In the picture, Rabbi Roberto Arbib leads a gallery talk on the exhibit.

The Neve Schechter Story

**New! Cinema Tel Aviv**, a 12-minute film produced by Neve Schechter with a special premiere screening in September to celebrate Neve Zedek’s 130th birthday

**In-House Theatre**: **Agnon at Lorenz**, interactive one-hour historical tour of Neve Schechter and **Girls in Arms**, a new drama combining the building’s history with contemporary issues, four performances

**Houses from Within**: Over 300 people visited Neve Schechter during this event, showcasing Israel’s most interesting architectural gems, May 2017

Body Midrash for Adults (December 2016-February 2017) and **Children** (March-April 2017) completed a third successful year in cooperation with the Suzanne Dellal Center for Dance and Theater and Ohad Naharin’s Gaga Workshop

Adult Education Courses included: Revolutionaries Five Years On, a 12-part series analyzing Israel’s 2012 social protest movement; The Kabbalah and Rabbi Luzatto; Rambam’s Ethics, Psychology and Spirituality; Levinas and the Israelis: Jewish Philosophy and Israeli Society and more.
Special Moments... 2016-17
Camp Ramah-Ukraine Celebrates 25 Years!
It all began 25 years ago in 1992, in a compound outside of Moscow, where the first seeds of Jewish life were emerging after 80 years of Communist suppression.

August 2017: In a beautiful setting in western Ukraine, 131 campers opened this year’s camp with a special tribute to founding camp director Gila Katz, For a second year, the camp hosted a North American Ramah delegation of nine counselors, headed by Camp Ramah Associate Director Amy Skopp Cooper who worked alongside 26 Ukrainian and Israeli counselors. Camp Ramah-Ukraine, generously supported for many years by the Ben N. Teitel Trust, continues to provide an inspirational model of Jewish living.

Ramah Family Camp Embraces Refugee Children
Over 30 families, including four refugee families from Donetsk – totaling more than 100 parents, children and grandparents – came together from all over Ukraine to experience the ultimate Ramah experience. The six-days exposed the families to Conservative/Masorti Judaism, placing a special emphasis on Shabbat programming, Torah and Zionism.

MY Community Outreach 2016-17

- Kiev’s Midreshet Yerushalayim/Masorti Olami Center for Jewish Education and Culture are transforming the cultural life of Jewish Kiev. Led by Rabbi Reuven and Lena Stamov, the Jewish Education Center together with the Masorti congregation, draws over 250 weekly participants to courses and holiday workshops for all ages, creating a strong sense of community. Rabbi Stamov has become a leading religious figure in the city, invited to officiate at Jewish and non-Jewish events.

- Chernowitz Kehillat Aviv Cultural Center greatly expanded its holiday and Jewish studies program...
this year, creating an extended community of more than 150 members. 24 holiday workshops and weekly Shabbat programs drew between 40-80 people weekly, with an active NOAM group leading activities.

- **Berdichev Community Sunday School** expanded to include “2nd generation” pre-schoolers; children of graduates of the school! More than 35 children aged 3-16, and their parents, meet every Sunday for experiential learning and a hot meal.

- **Odessa Kehillat Tiferet’s** 60 members come together for Shabbat and holiday services including an annual Pesach Seder (see page 20)

- **TALI Family Education Centers** in Kiev, Chernowitz, Berdichev and Odessa

- **Kharkov Lyceum Day School**, with 120 students (grades 1-10)

- **Teachers’ Seminar for 40 teachers and camp counselors**, Uzghorod, January and June, 2017

- **25th Annual Ramah-Ukraine Summer Camp and Ramah-Ukraine Family Camp**, August 2017 (see page 20)

**Midreshet Schechter – Israel**

Midreshet Schechter offers multi-lingual education programs in Masorti congregations, community centers and at the Schechter Institute in Jerusalem.

- **Rabbi Dubi Haiyoun Receives AJC Unity Award**

Rabbi Dubi Haiyoun, Director of Midreshet Schechter and Rabbi of Haifa’s Kehillat Moriah, received the AJC Unity Award together with partners Amir Muhammad Sharif Ode and Father Yousef Yakoub in Washington, DC in June, in the presence of Defense Minister Avigdor Lieberman, UN Ambassador Danny Danon and other dignitaries. Rabbi Haiyoun’s Maronite, Christian and Muslim colleagues rushed to help the congregation during the Carmel forest fires in November 2016 which damaged the synagogue. Rabbi Haiyoun and Amir Sharif Ode teach an interfaith class, *Isaac and Ishmael Meet at the Bet Midrash at Kehillat Moriah*.

**Batei Midrash Expand to Israel’s Center**

**New Programs:** A Bet Midrash opened this year in Mazkeret Batya, a town in Israel’s center where the majority of its residents are young families. ■ In Moshav Givat Yisha’ayahu, a new course on *Judaism in Modern Music* has drawn large numbers ■ In Or Akiva, a Bet Midrash for young people and seniors opened ■ In Haifa, *Kehillat Moriah* offered Jewish studies to a senior citizens home, and in Jerusalem, in conjunction with the Conservative Yeshiva, an SRS rabbinical student taught a course in French.

**Programs in the North:** Programs are run in the Jezreel Valley College, Kibbutz Degania Bet, Shlomi and Nazareth. Masorti Kehillot host learning in Haifa (*Kehillat Moriah*), Karmiel (*Kehillat Hakerem*) and Ramat Yishay (*Kehillat Sukkat Shalom*). Centers also operate in Ma’aleh Adumim and Jerusalem. Courses were taught mainly by Masorti rabbis, with Rabbi Dubi Haiyoun serving as the Director and lead teacher. Over 600 people attended the learning, with hundreds more coming to one-time events.

**English Lectures Honor Jerusalem**

The English Jewish Studies Program at Schechter offered a special 5-part lecture and walking tour series, *Understanding Jerusalem*, with lecturer/tour guide Marik Shtern in April and May. The program’s on-going Fall and Spring 8-part lecture series are earning high marks from its community of adult learners, numbering close to 50.
Shavua Tov • A Good Week @ Schechter

Development and Communications
Chair, The Schechter Institutes, Inc.: Saul Sanders
President, The Schechter Institutes, Inc.: Rabbi Prof. David Golinkin
Executive Vice President: Eitan Cooper
Director of Development: Anya Segal
Director of Public Relations: Moriah Karsagi-Aharon
North American Representative: Avrum Lapin, The Lapin Group, LLC

Schechter raised a record $6,556,706 in the period of October 1, 2016 - September 30, 2017. The continued fundraising success enabled Schechter’s four nonprofits to conduct academic, educational and outreach activities for over 65,000 children and adults at its main campus in Jerusalem, at Neve Schechter in Tel Aviv, in TALI schools throughout the State of Israel, at Schechter Centers throughout Israel and in Ukraine.

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

New Major Operating Gifts, Grants and Allocations ($20,000 and up)
- Azrieli Foundation, Learning Center on the Environment for TALI Schools
- The Associated Jewish Community Federation of Baltimore for the Odessa Tiferet Masorti Community
- JUF/Jewish Federation of Metropolitan Chicago, New Grants for Neve Schechter 70 Voices Music Events; SRS/SIJS new academic Leadership Programs and Torah Lishmah
- Marc Galler Research Foundation, New TALI Textbook
- Israel Ministry of Education for TALI Programs
- The Katzin Family, New TALI Textbook
- Keren Kayemet l’Yisrael, SRS for Leadership Training
- The Liebhaber Family Foundation, Derakhim Project at the Schechter Rabbinical Seminary
- A Major Bequest from the Estate of Shirley Liebowitz z”l, was used for new Neve Schechter, SRS and TALI initiatives, as well as for emergency repairs to the infrastructure of the Administration and Library Building on the Schechter Campus
- Lou and Judy Miller, New TALI Textbook
- Naomi and Peter Neustadter, New TALI School, Lod
- Eli Reinhardt, General Support, SIJS Graduate School
- Susan and Scott Shay, TALI High School Program
- Peter and Deborah Wexler, Rabbinical Scholarships
- Women’s League for Conservative Judaism, SRS Rabbinic Scholarships

TALI Endowment Campaign
The Endowment Campaign in honor of the 40th Anniversary of TALI, establishing the TALI Center for Pluralistic Jewish Education and the Golinkin TALI Chair in Jewish Education, raised $1,300,000. The Center will be set up and the appointment of an incumbent to the Chair will be announced soon.
Schechter Leadership News

Linda Price stepped down as Director of Communications after 21 years of service in which time she created a department which promoted the Schechter mission throughout the world with professionalism and dedication. We wish Linda success in her future endeavors. Moriah Karsagi-Aharon, who has worked closely with Linda over the years, was appointed Public Relations and Media Director.

Development Team Enhanced

A greater emphasis on new donor outreach and online donor relations has been set in motion with the restructuring of the Development Department. Anya Zhuravel Segal was appointed Director of Development in February 2017. Formerly on the development team at JAFI, she was Director of Development at a major Jerusalem-based non-profit working with at-risk youth prior to joining Schechter. In addition, two new-media writers have been hired for Schechter and TALI to build on-line presence in English and Hebrew: Rabbi Ilana Foss, a JTS graduate and a former pulpit rabbi who recently moved to Israel, and Yael Shenberger, who worked formerly at Bayit Le’kol Yeled, an organization that works with children and families in extremely high risk populations.

In 2017, Schechter involved the senior leadership of its non-profits in fundraising. In addition to trips by Schechter Inc. President Prof. David Golinkin and Exec. Vice President Eitan Cooper, TALI Director Dr. Eitan Chikli and SRS Dean Rabbi Avi Novis-Deutsch both travelled to fundraise and speak to groups in the US. Yonit Kolb, Neve Schechter Director, began reaching out to Tel Aviv donors.

Board News

The Schechter Institutes mourns the passing of Gershon Kekst z”l, long-time Schechter board member, committed advocate of pluralistic Jewish education and Masorti Judaism and a passionate and gifted leader of the Jewish world. His insight, counsel and generosity contributed immensely to the growth of our institution. We extend our sincerest condolences to Carol and the entire family.

Lynne Galler joined the TALI Board in addition to her current service on the Schechter Institutes, Inc. Board. Mario Ptalinsky joined the SRS Board as Treasurer.

Prof. Alice Shalvi Awarded Bonei Zion Award

Prof. Alice Shalvi was awarded the prestigious Nefesh B’Nefesh Bonei Zion Award in June 2017 for being “an active and leading figure in a variety of social movements, peace and inter-religious dialogues and feminist activities.” As past President of the Schechter Institute and past Chair of Schechter’s Executive Committee, we are proud of our leader’s vast achievements over the years and her commitment to the Schechter Institute.

Board Meetings

- The Schechter Institutes, Inc., under the leadership of Chair Saul Sanders, met in New York in November 2016 and June 2017
- The Schechter Institute of Jewish Studies Board of Trustees, led by Chair Saul Sanders and by Executive Committee Chair Jonathan Steinberg convened in December, 2016 and May 2017
- The Schechter Rabbinical Seminary, led by Board Chair Ilana Laderman Mushkin, conducted board meetings in Jerusalem in December 2016, and in May and September 2017
- The TALI Education Fund Board, chaired by Roni Yannay met in January and September 2017
- The Midreshet Schechter Board, chaired by Prof. David Golinkin, met in January and September 2017

1. Members of the Vancouver Law and Learn Seminar enjoy a day of classes at Schechter. 2. Davidson Foundation representatives visit the TALI Pisgat Zeev School, Jerusalem. From left: David Golinkin, Eitan Chikli, Kari Alterman, Sarai Shoup, Ralph Gerson and Gila Barashi. 3. Howard and Fay Ganz (center and far right) visit the TALI Frankel School, Jerusalem, with Gila Barashi, David Golinkin and school principal Dalia Reich. 4. Rabbi Roberto Arbib welcomes Davidson Foundation representative Kari Alterman to Neve Schechter together with Anya Segal. 5. Mort and Miriam Steinberg, Chicago, IL, meet with David Golinkin.
Vancouver Brings “Law & Learn Seminar” to Schechter

“Maintaining Security, Rule of Law, Democracy and Our Jewish Way of Life” was the study theme that brought over 30 of Canada’s leading litigators and judges to Israel for five days of study. Led by Vancouver attorney Howard Mickelson and Congregation Beth Israel’s Rabbi Jonathan Infeld, the seminar featured Schechter’s top faculty, combined with high-level meetings with leading Israeli figures in the field of jurisprudence, including Vice President of the Supreme Court and former Attorney General Elyakim Rubinstein and Israel’s State Prosecutor, Shai Nitzan. The success of this study seminar has prompted the development of a seminar model designed to bring additional professional groups to Schechter for in-depth study in tailor-made programs.

The JTS Connection

The Schechter Institutes is proud of its partnership with JTS on the following joint programs: JTS Scholarships for Israeli students in the Schechter Rabbinical Seminary, Graduate School, and TALI Leadership Program; scholarships for teenagers to attend Camp Ramah-Ukraine; general support for TALI teacher training and JTS support for adult education courses at Neve Schechter.

Following the President

Prof. David Golinkin served as a scholar-in-residence at numerous Conservative congregations and spoke at various conferences in Israel and abroad in 2016-17. In North America: Women’s League Convention, Arlington, VA, July 2017 • Congregation Beth El, Fairfield, CT, Rabbi Marcelo Kormis, June 2017 • Tifereth Israel, New Bedford, MA, Rabbi Raphael Kanter, May 2017 • RA Convention, Baltimore, MD, February 2017 • Adath Israel, Philadelphia, PA, Rabbi Eric Yanoff, February 2017 • Law and Learn, Beth Israel, Vancouver, BC, Rabbi Jonathan Infeld, February 2017 • Beth Yeshurun, Houston, TX, Rabbi David Rosen, February 2017 • Highland Park Conservative Temple, Rabbi Eliot Malomet, November 2016 • Beth David B’Nai Israel Beth Am, Toronto ON, Rabbi Philip Schein, October 2016 • Park Avenue Synagogue, NYC, Rabbi Elliot J. Cosgrove, September 2016

In the Media

Schechter Institutes leadership received significant media coverage this past year, with over 100 articles, op-eds and interviews by senior faculty and staff, including the following:

**Prof. Doron Bar:** "From the Sacred City to the Capital City", and "From Parade to Parade: Independence Day Displays in Jerusalem before and after the Six Day War", Jerusalem Post, 2017

**Dr. Eitan Chikli:** "How Jewish Education Can Succeed in a Public Space", Times of Israel, September 2016; "We Need a Secular Roe Klein," Makor Rishon, December 2016; "Secularist Netanyahu," Times of Israel, April 2017; "Back to the Jewish Israeli Conflict", Ha’aretz, October 2017

**Rabbi Avi Novis-Deutsch:** "Intense Controversies That Divide the Jewish People," Jerusalem Post, July 2017; "Why I, a Rabbi, Am Marching in Jerusalem’s Gay Parade," Ha’aretz, August 2017

**Prof. David Golinkin:** "All About Simchat Torah," Israel Radio, October 2017, "Thoughts About the Kotel, Conversion and Senseless Hatred," The Times of Israel, June 30, 2017. In addition, Professor Golinkin’s lead role as the Ramban in a play "The Divine Right" was covered by Ha’aretz, Arutz 7, Kol Ha’Ir, Jerusalem Post and Detroit Jewish News

**Dr. Einat Ramon:** “Everyone Wanted Separation at the Wall,” Ha’aretz, September 2017

**Event coverage**

The TALI Education Fund’s 40th celebrations were covered by almost 50 media outlets, locally and internationally, including radio interviews, TV coverage, and articles in print and online media.

The art exhibitions at Neve Schechter were covered by Ha’aretz, Ma’ariv, Yedioth Aharonot and Time Out Tel Aviv.

**Schechter Faculty at International Forums**

Schechter faculty served as scholars-in-residence and spoke at international conferences:

**Dr. Ari Ackerman:** “Mordecai Kaplan’s Philosophy of Jewish Education,” Melton Coalition Conference, NYC, February 2017 • **Dr. Paul Mandel:** was awarded a research fellowship at the Protestantse Theologische Universiteit in Amsterdam in January-February 2017, enabling him to teach a number of courses in Midrash and Aggadah at the University of Amsterdam and the PThU; ‘From safar data to sofer da’at: The Transformation of Torah from Law to Text,’ Ninth Enoch Seminar, Camaldoli, Italy, June 2017 • **Rabbi Avi Novis-Deutsch** participated in the opening plenary of the “The City That Unites All of Israel” conference at the Hartman Institute in Jerusalem. • **Dr. Paul Shrell-Fox:** “Evolution: A Moral & Religious Imperative,” American Academy of Religion Regional Conference. St. Paul, MN, March 2017; “Judaism as an Explicit Long-term Evolutional Strategy,” British Association of Jewish Studies, Edinburgh, Scotland, July 2017 • **Dr. Bat-Sheva Margalit Stern:** “Honor and Blood: Engendering The Debate On Voluntarism - The ‘Eretz Israeli Legion’ as a Case-Study,” Association for Israel Studies, Boston, MA, June 2017 • **Dr. Einat Ramon:** “Truth and Lovingkindness: Rabbinic Sources and Questions for Learning in Pairs and in Communities on Death as a Source for Meaningful Life,” Association for Clinical Pastoral Education Annual Conference, Minneapolis, MN, May 2017 • **Prof. Yossi Turner:** “Jewish Learning and the Non-Jew: Toward a New Particularist-Universalist Paradigm,” Melton Coalition Conference, NYC, February 2017
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2016-2017

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# Schechter Institute Operating Budget

**(in US$) January 1 2016 - December 31 2016**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>INCOME</th>
<th>EXPENSES</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Schechter Institute of Jewish Studies Graduate School</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Federations and Foundations</td>
<td>1,279,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contributions</td>
<td>1,284,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuition and Fees</td>
<td>891,744</td>
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<tr>
<td>Endowment Income</td>
<td>240,596</td>
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<tr>
<td>Book sales, rental income, misc.</td>
<td>240,244</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Sub-Total</strong></td>
<td>3,935,584</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Includes PR, fundraising, US and campus expenses for all four Schechter Amutot

| **TALI Education Fund** | |
| Jewish Agency | 405,633 | Textbook/Curriculum Development | 347,437 |
| Foundations and Federations | 1,183,071 | Pedagogic Counseling and Principal Center | 562,816 |
| Contributions | 916,056 | Spiritual Educ. and Experiential Programming | 290,020 |
| Israeli Government | 308,704 | Leadership Training and Teacher Workshops | 274,534 |
| Fees for Sales, Services | 229,014 | Early Childhood Department | 290,701 |
| Interest and carriover | 28,044 | Special Projects | 547,352 |
| **TALI Network expansion** | 271,451 | **Administration** | 486,211 |
| **Sub-Total** | 3,070,522 | **Sub-Total** | 3,070,522 |

| **Schechter Rabbinical Seminary** | |
| Jewish Agency and KKL | 108,490 | Faculty Salaries | 357,704 |
| Federations and Foundations | 69,053 | Scholarship Stipends | 191,834 |
| Contributions | 383,150 | Special Programs and Student Activities | 109,239 |
| Tuition and Fees | 177,495 | Administration | 104,533 |
| Interest and carriover | 25,122 |
| **Sub-Total** | **763,310** | **Sub-Total** | **763,310** |

| **Midreshet Schechter - Israel** | |
| Jewish Agency | 45,300 | Schechter Centers in North - Courses | 167,944 |
| Foundations and Federations | 321,622 | Neve Schechter Programming | 389,127 |
| Israeli Government/ Municipalities | 80,831 | Neve Schechter Maintence and Operating | 217,915 |
| Contributions | 184,510 | Administration | 60,360 |
| Participation and Rental Fees | 203,083 |
| **Sub-Total** | **835,346** | **Sub-Total** | **835,346** |

| **Midreshet Yerushalayim - Ukraine** | |
| Federations and JAFI | 52,200 | Teacher Training - Seminars and Workshops | 49,220 |
| Foundations | 135,350 | Camp Ramah - Summer and Family Camps | 143,108 |
| Contributions | 215,000 | Kyiv Center and Rabbi/ Shaliach Salary and Housing | 182,284 |
| Masorti Olami | 96,200 | Communities (Odessa, Chernowitz, Berdichev) | 47,800 |
| **Masorti Olami** | **96,200** | **Administration** | 76,338 |
| **Sub-Total** | 498,750 | **Sub-Total** | 498,750 |

| **TOTAL** | 9,103,512 | **TOTAL** | 9,103,512 |