



דגנית

Prof. Doron Bar

אודליה

אייל

Zohar Forte

Jewish Educational Innovation in a Time of Crisis

Out of something bitter
came something sweet
(Judges 14:14)

Shirel

מעין

יעקב וקנין

תמי גוטליב

Sarah

שרית מור יוסף

טלי



The Schechter Institutes
Annual Report 2019-20

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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:

The Schechter Institute of Jewish Studies, the largest M.A. program in Jewish Studies in Israel with 400 students and 1807 graduates.

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

The TALI Education Fund offers a pluralistic Jewish studies program to 65,000 children in over 300 Israeli secular public schools and kindergartens.

Midreshet Yerushalayim provides Jewish education to Jewish communities throughout Ukraine.

Midreshet Schechter offers adult Jewish education in Bet Midrash frameworks throughout Israel.

Neve Schechter-Legacy Heritage Center for Jewish Culture in Neve Zedek draws thousands of Tel Avivians every year to concerts, classes, cultural events and art exhibits.



It was the best of times. It was the worst of times. These immortal words from Charles Dickens's *A Tale of Two Cities*, aptly describe the transformation the Schechter Institutes underwent as we quickly responded to the cataclysmic effects of Covid-19. On the whole, Schechter has been strengthened by the pandemic, not diminished by it.

Social distancing has brought us closer together, tapping wells of creativity and new-found energies. All academic courses and informal learning went online, enabling Schechter in Jerusalem and Tel Aviv to reach new populations in Israel and overseas, making a distant goal an immediate reality. Spiritually and physically isolated communities in Ukraine suddenly were sharing and debating Jewish texts together – on one screen. Parents and children throughout Israel were downloading TAL games and books with Jewish content.

Coronavirus is acrippler. But it can also be an enabler. We all anxiously await the day when this dark chapter will be behind us. For now, Schechter's faculty, students and staff are committed to building on the gains we have achieved so far. In the worst of times, innovation is a necessity. Schechter's Jewish Educational Innovation reflects the best of these times.

Letter from the Chairman



In 2019, our mantra was “Stay away from negative people.” In 2020, it should be “Stay away from positive people.” This saying reflects the major changes and challenges we have faced at Schechter over the past year. We have had to adjust our ways of teaching at all of our academic programs, recreate the Ramah camping experience in the Ukraine in a safe manner, adjust how we work with TALI schools throughout Israel and change our interactions at Neve Schechter in Tel Aviv and each of our Batei Midrash throughout the country.

I am proud to say that the Schechter staff did a remarkable job adjusting to the new reality they faced. Both the Rabbinical School and the Schechter Institute of Jewish Studies successfully converted their 90 classes totalling close to 700 students from in-person to online learning in March and for the remainder of the semester. Exploring what they learned in this process, they have now begun to offer online classes and lectures not just to students in Israel but in Europe, South America and North America. Enrollment for next year at both schools looks strong.

At TALI, we and our client schools had to learn how to transmit Jewish knowledge, culture and values in new and different ways. We worked with principals and teachers throughout Israel to adjust. Realizing that many of these changes could help expand our impact, we translated them into other languages and our TALI materials are now being used on four continents and in many different languages.

In every crisis, there are opportunities. Having been forced to adjust more quickly than expected to virtual instruction, we realize that using these tools creatively can expand our ability to reach people both in Israel and the Diaspora and to spread our dual messages of the importance of Jewish pluralism and increasing Jewish knowledge. We have begun to work with other institutions on offering remote joint programs and I hope that we will be announcing some new partnerships during the coming year. These will allow us to offer more interaction with people studying at peer institutions around the world, whether they are Rabbinical students, teachers of Judaism, students of Jewish music or art or interested lay people.

Wishing you a safe and healthy New Year.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Saul I. Sanders". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Saul I. Sanders
Chairman of the Board
The Schechter Institutes, Inc.

Letter from the President



Rabbi Avraham Saba (d. 1508) was a Spanish exegete, preacher and Kabbalist. When the Jews were expelled from Spain in 1492, he settled in Oporto, Portugal, where he wrote commentaries on the Torah, the Five Scrolls and *Pirkei Avot*. When Portugal decreed the conversion of Jews in 1497, his two young sons were forcibly baptized and his extensive library plundered. He had to bury his own writings under an olive tree. After escaping imprisonment, he fled to Fez, Morocco, where he rewrote some of his commentaries from memory. And yet, in his *Tzror Hamor* commentary to the Torah, he wrote: אין רע שאין בו טוב, "There is no bad which does not contain good." What an incredible statement by someone who had suffered so much!

I was reminded of this saying many times since the Covid-19 pandemic began to spread like wildfire in March 2020. There is no question that the pandemic is very bad – spreading illness, death and economic devastation throughout the world. And yet, there is no bad which does not contain good. At the Schechter Institutes, not only have we continued to run all Rabbinical and Graduate School courses via Zoom, but we have done things we had never done, or dreamed of doing, before:

- Over 50 Zoom lectures and events broadcast between Purim and Shavuot in Hebrew, English and Russian, attended by thousands of people.
- An international reading of Megillat Hashoah (The Shoah Scroll) in three languages on Yom Hashoah, attended by almost 300 people.
- English and Hebrew Tikkunim before Shavuot, attended by 400 people.
- Our annual Women's Study Day, attended by 440 women from all over the world.
- TAL family activity sheets for Shavuot in Hebrew and English, used by thousands of families throughout the world.

In addition, our regular programs have been growing: enrollment up at the Schechter Institute graduate school, including the new MA program in Ofakim in the Negev; enrollment up to 95 students in the Schechter Rabbinical Seminary Ashira program for the High Holidays; TAL added 5 new elementary schools plus 12 new high schools (the 10th grade program) in 5781 and will provide curricula throughout Europe via the EFI program; 44,000 people have attended or viewed 35 videos or online events at Neve Schechter in Tel Aviv; Midreshet Yerushalayim Ukraine ran four successful Ramah Day Camps and we are in the advanced stages of purchasing a synagogue building in Kiev.

We hope and pray that the pandemic will end as soon as possible. In the meantime, with God's help and your support, we will continue to do what we have done for 36 years – to teach Torah in an inviting fashion to over 85,000 Israeli and European Jews every year.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David Golinkin".

Rabbi Prof. David Golinkin
President
The Schechter Institutes, Inc.



Knowing the Bible takes you to the essence of Jewish life, the artistry and aesthetics, the poetry and the prophecy, the narrative and the wisdom.”

The Bible is the Jewish People's National Treasure

Dr. Sarah Schwartz, head of Schechter's enhanced interdisciplinary Bible track, has brought innovative change to the program, with a pledge to return the discipline to its former glory.

For the past two years, thanks to a generous donation by an Israeli donor, Schechter's M.A. track in Bible received a new lease on life. The driving force behind the program is Dr. Sarah Schwartz, 48, an academic whose life's mission is to return the Bible to its rightful place of distinction in the Israeli heart and mind. "The Bible forms the basis for all Judaism and is the bedrock of Jewish Studies," she explains. "Knowing the Bible takes you to the essence of Jewish life, the artistry and aesthetics, the poetry and the prophecy, the narrative and the wisdom."

Sarah, with an MA and PhD in Bible from Bar Ilan University, initially taught high school history and Bible before moving into academia. She knows the overarching importance of a good teacher armed with compelling content. To this end, she introduced new courses at Schechter including *Bible and Gender*, *Leadership in the Bible*, and a special course designed for teachers on *New Ways to Teach Bible in the 21st Century*. "My goal is to instill our M.A. students with a passion for the Bible, so that it becomes an indispensable source of inspiration in their lives and that of their students."

"We want to move past the ivory tower and reach as many people as possible," explains Sarah. Last year, an exceptionally successful series of public lectures took place, connecting Bible to psychology, archaeology and literature. This year, in light of Covid-19, Sarah took the series out of the lecture hall and into the streets of Jerusalem, with Bibles in hand.

Recently, Sarah spent a semester in New York as a JTS visiting scholar completing her latest book, *The Narrative of Isaac in the Book of Genesis*. She, better than most, knows the power of a good narrative. "Every people has their national ethos and identity. For the Jewish people, the power of words and text has been central to our development." For Dr. Sarah Schwartz, the seminal Jewish text is the Bible. "The more Israelis re-connect to this well of inspiration and ideas, the more our national discourse will be enriched and strengthened."



The Story Behind the Song

Dr. Naomi Cohn Zentner continues her ground-breaking work with the Schechter Rabbinical Seminary's (SRS) *Ashira Tehilot* program for prayer leaders, and in the graduate school, has been instrumental in launching the first MA program in Jewish music in Israel.

“Schechter is committed to influencing Israel's cultural and spiritual agenda by connecting the Jewish People to its liturgical tradition, which goes back centuries.”

Naomi Cohn Zentner, 43, is an ethnomusicologist, a person passionate about people, music, and all the spaces in between. With a PhD from Hebrew University, a Masters from McGill University in Montreal and a BA from Bar Ilan University, she describes her work: “I research musical traditions and their historical and sociological processes. Basically, I'm looking for the story behind the song,” she explains.

She arrived at Schechter a few years ago, interested in joining SRS's new music program, *Ashira (I will Sing Praises)* as a student. “My father, a physician, was also the *Shliach Tzibur* (Hazan/cantor) in our Jerusalem neighborhood synagogue. As a modern Orthodox woman, I felt frustrated. Where could my voice be heard?” With her credentials as a researcher of Ashkenazi music, the program head told her she could teach in the program while learning at the same time. “It was a very empowering moment for me,” she remembers.

“Prayer is a hot topic today in Israeli society,” explains Naomi. “It is also becoming much more mainstream as Mizrachi (Sephardi) influences, which are closer to the religious world, are absorbed into Israeli music. In addition, using religious language in everyday life has become more acceptable in the public sphere.” Responding to this shift in perception, Rabbi Avi Novis-Deutsch, Dean of SRS, initiated the *Ashira* program for prayer leaders in Fall 2019.

The program's unique curriculum was developed in 2018 through the efforts of a six-month “think tank” comprised of some of Israel's top music professionals, including Naomi. Fall 2020 ushers in the 3rd study cycle of Shabbat liturgy, with Naomi and Rabbi Uri Kroyzer co-leading the Ashkenazi study track. *Ashira* also offers Sephardi and Contemporary Liturgy Tracks and six tracks of High Holiday Liturgy.

Cohn Zentner is grateful to Schechter for providing a platform and budget for both *Ashira* and the MA program in Jewish Music. “These programs reflect Schechter's commitment to influencing Israel's cultural and spiritual agenda by connecting the Jewish people to its liturgical tradition, which goes back centuries. The act of prayer should be accessible to all. Schechter is making a real contribution in this field.”

Passing the Mantle: The Next Generation of TALI Leadership

**"The older prophet Elijah passed by Elisha and threw his mantle onto him."
(Kings I, 19:19-21)**



"In essence, TALI introduced pluralistic Jewish education to Israel. I am extremely proud of this achievement."

Dr. Eitan Chikli

"TALI is not just about teaching Jewish studies, it's about inspiring a vibrant Jewish life experience capable of transforming Israeli society."

Dr. Peri Sinclair

On June 1, 2020, Dr. Peri Sinclair became the new Susan and Scott Shay Director General of the TALI Education Fund. She was handed the mantle of leadership by Dr. Eitan Chikli, her mentor and role model for close to thirty years.

This pair of dedicated educators share a professional relationship that spans decades. They first connected when Chikli was Director of Camp Ramah Israel and Sinclair worked as a counselor. Next, the two met up at Kibbutz Hannaton's Leadership Institute where Chikli served as its founding director and Sinclair was doing army service.

Chikli, a Schechter-ordained rabbi, returned to Jerusalem in 1994 to head up TALI for the next 26 years. He came with a clear vision: to share a Jewish language that could be embraced by non-Orthodox Israel. He wanted to give secular Israelis "a positive Jewish experience so that Judaism was no longer perceived as a threat to their way of life, but instead as a source of inspiration and growth." His success in this endeavor is in many ways TALI's success.

A Passion for People and Jewish Education

Sinclair, 46, boasts a long and respected track record in Jewish education both in Israel and the U.S. During the family's six-year stint in North America, Sinclair received her MA in Jewish Education and her DHL in Midrash from JTS, while also serving as Assistant Education Director of the Agudath Israel Congregation in Caldwell, NJ. Her Masters thesis dealt with peer-led Jewish education in Jewish communities, while her doctorate analyzed how the rabbis conceived women and gestation in Leviticus Rabbah.

Returning to Israel in 2007, Sinclair founded the popular Limmud Jewish studies program in Modiin. She lives there today with her husband, Dr. Alex Sinclair, a professor of Jewish Education at JTS from 2002-2019, and their three children.

Sinclair was introduced to TALi at an early age. She attended the TALi Hod Hasharon school, where her parents were among the founders and led its parents' committee for years. Later, she headed up the Parent-Child Workshop program at TALi. "I'm very proud of who I am. I think Judaism brings with it a very rich and powerful culture. It adds meaning, structure and awe to my life," explains Sinclair.

Sinclair's passion for people and Jewish education began to snowball, eventually returning her to TALi in 2017 as Assistant Director and head of its Professional Leadership Division. Three years later, she was chosen to succeed Chikli as Director General.

Under Chikli's leadership, TALi expanded from twenty elementary schools in 1994 into a national network of over 300 schools and pre-schools today, growing from 5,000 to 65,000 children. During this period, TALi developed 40 Jewish studies textbooks; four of them introduced into the entire Israeli school system as part of its Jewish-Israeli Culture program. Its Halleli Professional Leadership program for teachers and principals, the jewel in the TALi crown, was adapted from a Harvard University model, where Chikli, as a Wexner Fellow, received a Masters in Public Administration.

Right: TALi professional staff welcome their new Director General, Dr. Peri Sinclair, and wish much success to outgoing Director General, Dr. Eitan Chikli.

A Jewish Education Revolution

"In essence, TALi introduced pluralistic Jewish education to Israel. I am extremely proud of this achievement. The fact that the Ministry of Education turned to TALi to implement what has become a Jewish education revolution in Israel is a testament to our contribution," says Chikli. "But where do we go from here? How do we continue to influence Israeli society in the most meaningful way?"

Sinclair, together with the TALi professional staff, have been earnestly debating the future direction of their organization. She sees an enhanced role for TALi "where we will work with schools to create programs and enrich their curriculum based on three core values: egalitarianism and equality; pluralism, both Jewish and universal; and the fusing of tradition, discovery and renewal, where the emphasis will be on strengthening the chain of Jewish continuity."

Expanding TALi's scope beyond the classroom is a priority for Sinclair. Her vision is to create TALi communities outside the school, targeting young adults in pre-army and army frameworks, as well as adults. TALi is also strengthening its ties with Diaspora communities. "After establishing strong connections both in North and South America, we are now focussing on European Jewish communities where TALi has been asked to develop a comprehensive set of curricular materials in 15 different languages," she explains.

"At the end of the day, most Israelis want their children to stay in Israel and be proud of who they are. This sense of belonging is not born out of a vacuum. It has to be nurtured, cultivated and worked at. That's why I am so committed to TALi. It's not only about teaching Jewish studies, it's about inspiring a vibrant Jewish life experience capable of transforming Israeli society."





From Leningrad to Jerusalem... and Back to Kiev

Rabbi Irina Gritsevskaia is the new director of Midreshet Schechter in Israel and Midreshet Yerushalayim in Ukraine, replacing Gila Katz who retired in 2019.

Judaism is not black and white. It's a rainbow of color.

I am humbled and honored to be the educator bringing this message to the Jewish communities of Ukraine at such a crucial juncture in their history.

Irina Gritsevskaia seems a bit breathless as she races to fill in the pieces of her life story. Adding dates to her personal timeline poses an even bigger problem. No wonder. This charismatic rabbi has amassed more layers of knowledge and experience in her short 43 years than most of us will do in a lifetime. Keeping it all straight is no mean feat.

Born in Communist Leningrad (today St. Petersburg) at a time when openly practicing Judaism was illegal, Irina, already at age 14, was finding ways to circumvent the system. It was the late 1980s "and a group of us started to meet clandestinely in a synagogue," she explains. There they learned about Zionism, Jewish history and practice. "It was all very romantic," she remembers.

At age 17, alone, Irina made Aliyah. "I am always searching for more meaning in my life, but the answers are always shifting," she says, with a twinkle in her eye. Her search is a testament to her sharp intellect and intrepid spirit. In 2018, she was ordained a Schechter rabbi in Jerusalem. Before that, she earned an MA in Jewish Thought from JTS in New York. Earlier, she acquired an MA in Law and studied Physics. She practiced both criminal law and corporate law for a number of years. Add to this resume a happy marriage with three children and you've got a unique individual.

"The position at Midreshet Yerushalayim could not have come at a better time for me personally and professionally. I love the fact that this job utilizes the gamut of my experience, from running a non-profit to spiritual mentoring and teaching," she explains.

"Ukrainian Jewry has a long and rich history, with ancestral ties to Jews both in Israel and North America." As Midreshet Yerushalayim Director, she would like to build a "cultural pyramid" of Jewish exchange between the three countries, creating lasting connections.

"Judaism is not black and white. It's a rainbow of color. I am humbled and honored to be the educator bringing this message to the Jewish communities of Ukraine at such a crucial juncture in their history."



Where Judaism Resonates with Joy

Romina Reisin, the new director of Neve Schechter, is bringing a fresh approach to this Jewish arts and culture center in the heart of Tel Aviv, with an emphasis on community building.

“Neve Schechter is here to offer the residents of Tel Aviv a joyful Judaism that allows for personal growth in a non-judgmental and open environment.”

“Transitions and Turning-Points.” Words that Romina Reisin uses frequently when describing the path her life has taken. Participating in the first Bat Mitzvah group of her Conservative synagogue in her hometown, Cordoba, Argentina. Leading Yom Kippur services at age 15 for a small community outside of Cordoba. Writing and producing a Jewish musical at age 26, in a Jewish studies center in Sweden. Studying for an MA in pluralistic Jewish studies in Jerusalem. Moving to Tel Aviv, meeting her future husband there, with two beautiful daughters soon to follow.

“I am a person who listens to her heart. Living in Israel grew out of a deep spiritual experience that drew me toward something I simply could not say ‘no’ to.” When a position opened up at Neve Schechter in 2013, for Romina, it was destiny calling. “Neve Schechter was a perfect match for me, where spirituality, Jewish arts and Jewish studies all come together,” she explains. “We are here to offer the residents of Tel Aviv a joyful Judaism that allows for personal growth in a non-judgmental and open environment.”

Romina wants to move into programming that stresses community building, while maintaining Neve Schechter’s high level of cultural events. One of her first initiatives – *Neve Omanut* – offers special needs children from a neighboring school the opportunity to develop new skills and self-esteem through photography classes followed by an exhibition of their works. She has also forged new partnerships with young Tel Aviv artists, providing space in which to work and the chance to delve into Jewish identity.

“In mid-March, we had to shutter our doors due to Covid-19, like all Israeli cultural venues,” says Romina. Neve Schechter quickly responded by moving much of its content to online programming via Zoom and Facebook. “Covid-19 forced us to think ‘out of the box.’ As a result, today we are reaching audiences we never dreamed possible,” explains Romina. Since March 2020, 44,000 people have attended or viewed 35 videos or online events at Neve Schechter. “There is a silver lining in every cloud!” smiles Romina.

The Graduate School



Chair, Board of Trustees:
Saul I. Sanders

Chair, Executive Committee:
Jonathan Steinberg

President:
Professor Doron Bar

Executive Vice President:
Eitan Cooper

Dean: **Dr. Tamar Kadari**

Numbers 2019-20

- 400 students, including 123 first-year students
- 78 faculty members, 16 full-time, 62 part-time
- 13 interdisciplinary M.A. tracks of Jewish Studies
- 51 graduates in 2020; 1807 graduates since 1994
- 8 books published by Schechter and Schechter faculty
- Over 50 conferences/study events live and by Zoom

Opposite page: Lecture Hall filled with MA students, pre-Covid-19.

Right: Dutch ministers with MA students, Protestant Theological University (PThU) – Schechter joint program; President Doron Bar guides MA students in Jerusalem.

The Graduate School and Covid-19

63 academic courses were offered via Zoom as the Graduate School quickly transitioned from frontal classes to online classes with the opening of the second semester, March 15, 2020. The move was smooth and resulted in higher numbers of enrollment and weekly attendance. The technology allowed students from throughout Israel and the world to join various courses.

New Initiatives

- **Enhanced Bible Program**, with 25 students in the program and 139 students taking the track's new, re-vamped courses as electives. Also offered three successful "Bible-in-Hand" study tours on Biblical Jerusalem for the general public (see profile, page 4).
- **An academic program to serve Israel's south** opened in Ofakim, a growing city in the western Negev. Focussing on Jews of Islamic Countries, the two-year program, supported by the Jewish Federation of Greater MetroWest, NJ, is geared to educators and will offer courses both in Ofakim and at Schechter.
- **Jewish Music M.A. Program**, unique in Israel, with nine specialized courses in Jewish Music, attracted some of Israel's top musicians and composers in its first year. 20 students are enrolled in 2020-21 (see profile, page 5).
- **Marpeh, the only academic chaplaincy (CPE) program in Israel, quickly responded to the challenges of Covid-19** by creating a new field of training to help children of Alzheimers patients deal with the decline of their parent's health due to quarantine. Founding Director **Dr. Einat Ramon** gave spiritual care sessions to directors of senior citizen homes to help them ease the loneliness of their residents. Ramon also wrote a number of popular articles



on old age during Covid-19. In spite of social distancing restrictions, Marpeh students and graduates increased their workloads with Israel's most vulnerable: the infirm and the elderly.

- **Schechter and the Protestant Theological University (PThU)** entered their 2nd year of academic cooperation, made possible by the EU Erasmus+ Grant. A group of 25 ministers from Holland spent 12 days in Israel, studying with MA students from the Maccabee program for Community Leadership, and Schechter faculty members taught in Holland during the Fall semester. Due to the program's success, an additional two-year grant has been awarded.

More Adult Learners with Zoom

Schechter's English/Hebrew Continuing Education Program has tripled the number of its students over the last four years. Quickly adapting to online studies with the onset of Covid-19, Schechter offered 13 spring semester Zoom courses to 166 students – up 20% from the Fall semester. Over 300 adult learners participated in 23 courses in 2019-2020.

From left:

Guided tour on Biblical Jerusalem for the general public; Yemenite music with Amitai Aricha, part of the new Jewish Music MA program.





Scholarship Enriching the Community

Over 50 Zoom Lectures Ease World COVID-19 Lockdown

Schechter went into high academic gear from Purim through July 2020 to ensure a steady flow of meaningful Jewish study in Hebrew, English and Russian to communities throughout the world – all of it via Zoom broadcasts.

- Ashira Days of Awe High Holiday Liturgy Workshops, 95 students, July-September 2020
- Sources of Inspiration for The High Holidays, 6-part series for Rabbinical Assembly members, June-July 2020
- Annual Conference on Judaism and the Arts, in memory of William Margulies, co-sponsored by Bar Ilan University, July 2020
- Virtual National Women's Study Day, in four languages, 440 participants from Israel, US, Canada, Mexico, Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Ukraine and Russia, June 2020
- Encountering Christianity and Islam in Jerusalem, 4-lectures/ 2 field trips, May-June 2020
- "Tikkun by Zoom" Study nights preceding Shavuot, English and Hebrew, 16 lectures, 400 participants, May 2020

Opposite page:

Regional Women's Study day, Kehillat Yedid Nefesh,
Hod Hasharon, February 2020

- From Redemption to Revelation Spring Lecture Series, English, with 7 leaders of the Schechter Institutes, April-June 2020
- Yom Hashoah International Megillat Hashoah Reading, three languages, four locations: Rabbis Michael Siegel, Anshei Emet Synagogue, Chicago; Philip Scheim, Beth David Synagogue, Toronto; Ariel Stofenmacher, Seminario Rabinico, Buenos Aires; David Golinkin, Jerusalem, 260 participants, May 2020
- Holocaust and Memory Panel with Marty Herskovitz, Doron Bar, Avi Novis-Deutsch and others, April 2020
- How Judaism Views a Pandemic, with Rabbi Avi Novis-Deutsch and rabbis from other streams in Judaism, Zoom and Facebook, April 2020

Conferences Before Covid-19:

- 21st Annual Regional Women's Study Days, February 2020
- Annual Rabbi David Aronson Memorial Lecture, "Solutions to the Agunah Dilemma in Israel," Prof. Berachyahu Lifshitz, January 2020
- Israel in the Modern Period (1799-1949), 4-part lecture series with Israel Prize winner Prof. Yehoshua Ben Arye, December 2019
- 5th Annual Pirkei Avot Lecture in Memory of Dr. Aubey Rotenberg, December 2019
- Annual Conference of Marpeh Chaplaincy Program, October 2019

New Books 2019-20

Published by Schechter

- *From Vienna to Jerusalem: Herzl's Final Journey*, Doron Bar and Anat Banin, co-published by the Central Zionist Archives, 2020
- *Kohelet Rabbah*, Chapters 7-12, Reuven Kipperwasser and David Golinkin, 2020 (Hebrew)
- *Nashim, A Journal of Jewish Women's Studies and Gender Issues*, eds. Deborah Greniman and Renée Levine Melammed, co-published by Hadassah Brandeis Institute and Indiana University Press: No. 36, Jewish Women Medical Practitioners in Europe Before, During and After the Holocaust, ed. Miriam Offer, Spring 2020; No. 37, Jewish Feminist Ethnographies, ed. Vanessa Ochs, Fall 2020
- *The Book of Ruth*, Benjamin Segal, co-published with Gefen Publishers, 2020

From left: Guest lecture by former Supreme Court Justice Elyakim Rubinstein; Virtual National Women's Study Day draws 440 online participants in June.



Conference on Judaism and the Arts, from left: Tamar Kadari, Alice Shalvi, Hephzibah Kelner, Ditzia Shmuel and Mordecai Kitan, one of two Prof. Alice Shalvi Scholarship recipients.

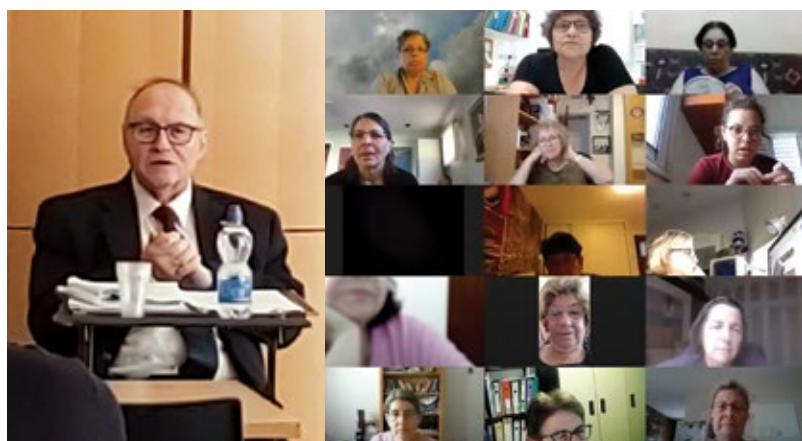
Published by Schechter Faculty

- *The Western Wall: The Dispute over Israel's Holiest Jewish Site, 1967–2000*, Doron Bar and Kobi Cohen-Hattabi, Leiden, Netherlands: Brill, 2020
- *Quest for Life: A Study in Aharon David Gordon's Philosophy of Man in Nature*, Yossi Turner, Brookline, MA: Academic Studies Press, 2020
- *The Philosophy and Scholarship of Eliezer Schweid*, 2 volumes, eds. Yossi Turner and Yehoyada Amir, Jerusalem: Carmel Publishers, 2020 (Hebrew)

Research at Schechter

Research at the Schechter Institute of Jewish Studies is conducted at its Center for Judaism and the Arts, The Center for Women in Jewish Law and the Institute of Applied Halakhah. Go to [www.schechter.edu/Programs/Schechter Institute of Jewish Studies/Research Groups](http://www.schechter.edu/Programs/Schechter%20Institute%20of%20Jewish%20Studies/Research%20Groups).

In addition, The Midrash Project is publishing a series of critical editions of Midrashim as well as synopses of all manuscripts of specific midrashim. <https://schechter.edu/the-midrash-project/>





Schechter Rabbinical Seminary

Chair, Board of Trustees
and Executive Committee:
Ilana Laderman Mushkin

Dean:
Rabbi Avi Novis-Deutsch

Spiritual Mentor:
Rabbi Dr. Reb Mimi Feigelson

SRS Numbers Up 40%

The Schechter Rabbinical Seminary continued its impressive growth. Participant numbers climbed to over 400 – a 40% increase over last year. Innovative online programs, in response to Covid-19 restrictions, reached thousands more in their homes.

Opposite page:
Morning prayers in the Bet Midrash.

Right:
Ashira Jewish Music program for prayer leaders.

410 Students Enrolled in SRS:

- 17 rabbinical students
- 28 *Mishlei* students for Jewish renewal and community action
- 30 students in Torah Lishma programs in Jerusalem and Tel Aviv; 30 students in special summer online Talmud class; and hundreds more joining Zoom and facebook study events
- 25 JTS and Conservative Yeshiva students
- 35 students in Ashira Jewish music program; 95 in pre-High Holiday Liturgy courses
- 45 NOAM graduates met once a month
- 50 special needs students in 4 Batei Midrash around the country; with Covid-19, over 100 participants in AKIM virtual learning community centers*
- 25 rabbis in RA online study; 7 rabbis in intensive weekly Halakhah studies
- New! 23 students in WhatsApp Judaism – daily Mishnah and Halakhah study

Celebrating over 100 Grads

The 30th SRS ordination ceremony took place in Jerusalem in December 2019, where **Rabbis David Arias, Matan Stein and Yos Baruch** were ordained, bringing the number of Schechter rabbis to 101 since 1988. Rabbi Arias is the new rabbi of Haifa's Kehillat Moriah; Rabbi Baruch serves the Havurat Tel Aviv congregation and Rabbi Stein teaches adult education courses in Judaism and Jewish Culture at Schechter.

* 100 AKIM participants not included in SRS total enrollment figure.



NEW INITIATIVES

36 Online Learning Events: The Answer to Covid-19

In addition to all academic courses that went online in March 2020, SRS organized 36 Zoom and Facebook classes from March-June 2020, including: 4-part series on the Baal Shem Tov; 5-part series on Religious/ Secular Co-existence; 4 pre-Passover lectures; Weekly Torah Portion Classes; Weekly Jewish Liturgy Study and special lectures with **Rabbis Avi Novis-Deutsch and Mimi Feigelson**.

Ashira Music Program Adds Summer School

95 students from all over Israel studied in six special pre-High Holiday liturgy courses for prayer leaders and music lovers. The summer courses were taught in person and via Zoom at Schechter, and for the first time, in Tel Aviv. The highly successful *Ashira* Program, now in its third year, is the first to train lay prayer leaders. The 4-month course attracted 35 students in 2020, offering them three tracks of liturgical study: Ashkenazi, Sephardi and Contemporary Prayer (see profile, page 5).

Derachim New Media Project Reaches Thousands

The Derachim New Media Project for Pluralism and Tolerance, in memory of **Rabbi Marc and Dr. Henia Liebhaber z"l**, was the perfect vehicle to bring Israelis together when social distancing went into place. Two Facebook panel discussions invited rabbis from different streams of Judaism to discuss "The Rabbi's Role during Covid-19" and "My Jerusalem," with a third panel on "Safe-guarding Memory in the Digital Age." The panels, along with a series of short filmed interviews with leading public figures, captured 4,000 views, with over 500 participants remaining for the entirety of the programs.

2019 Ordination Ceremony, from left:
Rabbis Diana Villa, Matan Stein, David Arias,
Yos Baruch and Avi Novis-Deutsch.



TALI

Education Fund



Chair,
Board of Trustees:
**Colonel (ret.)
Roni Yannay**

Outgoing Susan
and Scott Shay
Director General:
Dr. Eitan Chikli

Incoming Susan
and Scott Shay
Director General:
Dr. Peri Sinclair

TALI is Israel's largest pluralistic in-school Jewish studies program, reaching more than 65,000 children and 3,000 educators in over 300 public schools and preschools throughout the country. TALI's array of programs and curricula are reaching ever-growing numbers of diverse communities throughout Israel.

New Susan and Scott Shay Director General: Dr. Peri Sinclair

After 26 years at the helm of the TALI Education Fund, Dr. Eitan Chikli stepped down in June 2020 as Susan and Scott Shay Director General to become President of the Universidad Hebraica in Mexico City. Replacing him is Dr. Peri Sinclair, a respected educator who served three years as Assistant Director General (see profiles pages 6 and 7).

Opposite page:

Pupils at the TALI Ashdod School learning about morning prayers.

Clockwise, from top: 10th graders from TALI Rishonim High School, Herzliya, at a Jewish-Israeli identity seminar; Halelli students – TALI coordinators from Modi'in – pour over Jewish texts; TALI "Holiday Twister" game played by students in Jerusalem; Dialogue and Identity students from Zichron Yaakov's TALI Hachita School meet students from the St. Joseph School, Nazareth.

Numbers 2019-20

- **TALI frameworks serve over 65,000 pupils:** 81 elementary schools, including 9 new integrated schools of religious and secular students; 11 high schools and 220 pre-schools
- **Halleli Professional Leadership Development:** 96 participants in five programs around Israel
- **10th Grade Jewish Israeli Identity Program:** 11 high schools with 2,600 students. For 2020-21: 19 participating high schools!
- **Dialogue and Identity Co-existence Program for Jewish and Arab children:** 24 schools, 72 lead staff, 720 students; EU Grant for program expansion through 2023
- **15 pedagogic counselors** provided guidance to over 3,000 teachers
- **5 interactive TALI games** produced in conjunction with Ministry of Education's Jewish-Israeli Culture program
- **12 Teaching Guides written to accompany Jewish Bookshelf TALI films**, with an additional 5 films in production
- **New Bar/Bat Mitzvah Seminar – My Jewish Cloak – launched** in Fall 2020 with expansion planned for 2021

European Funders Back TALI

The EU made a substantial grant to TALI's Dialogue and Identity program, which will double the program's number of participants over the next three years. The co-existence program, in operation for 14 years, has created meaningful relationships between Jewish and Arab children through teaching shared religious values.

The Educating for Impact (EFI) organization has turned to TALI to write curricular materials for scores of European Jewish day schools which will be translated into 15 languages and will have a major impact on Jewish education in Europe. TALI curricular materials are already widely used in North and South America.



TALI Responds Quickly to Pandemic

TALI immediately shifted to a strong online presence with the onset of the Coronavirus:

- **Over 30 professional development courses broadcast via Zoom**
- **Creation of new TALI digital content** including ed-tech platform for teaching Shabbat
- **TALI textbooks uploaded to digital platform and made accessible to the public free of charge**, including the *TALI Family Haggadah*
- **New! Online "TALI at Home" Shavuot Family Activity Sheets** were launched in English and Hebrew with more than 2500 unique users. Due to the project's success, TALI will begin to produce monthly "TALI at Home" activity sheets in January 2021.





Neve Schechter Legacy Heritage Center for Jewish Culture

Chair, Midreshet
Schechter:
**Rabbi Prof. David
Golinkin**

Executive Director:
Romina Reisin

Curator:
Shira Friedman

Neve Schechter Goes Online, Finds New Audiences

Neve Schechter, one of Tel Aviv's most popular Jewish culture venues, quickly adapted to the challenge of Covid-19. In addition to the regularly attended world-class concerts, art exhibits, literary events and Jewish studies, virtual events were able to attract a more diverse audience to Neve Schechter's hallmark programming that infuses contemporary Israeli life with creative Jewish content.

Numbers 2019-20

- 44,000 online views and unique users for 35 events, videos and digital magazines
- 8,000 participants attended 40 lectures, concerts, holiday events and exhibits (before Covid-19)
- 50 Bar Mitzvahs, 5 weddings and 3 Brit ceremonies held in the Atid Sanctuary until March 2020

Opposite page:

Purim 2020 in the Neve Schechter courtyard.

Right: Neve Schechter curator, Shira Friedman (right) with guests at the opening of artist Avital Burg's *West Street* exhibit, December 2019.

New Leadership

- **Romina Reisin**, former Development Director at Neve Schechter, was appointed as the new Executive Director (see profile, page 9).
- **Shira Friedman** was appointed Director of the Schechter Gallery.

Masorti Kehillah of Neve Zedek

Neve Schechter houses the Masorti Congregation of Neve Zedek. Led by **Rabbi Roberto Arbib**, the kehilla continues to expand its base of young families.

Inaugural Israeli Art Prize Awarded

The first Annual Neve Schechter Prize for Contemporary Israeli Art, supported by the Yehoshua Rabinovich Foundation, was awarded to women musicians **Maureen Nehedar** and members of the **A-WA** band at a festive musical ceremony in January 2020.

The Schechter Gallery – Innovation in Motion

The Schechter Gallery continued to mount thought-provoking exhibits by well-known Israeli artists alongside an impressive array of events:

- 8 art exhibits
- 100 group visits and hundreds of individual visits
- New Course! "Books as Art" 5-part series at Neve Schechter and online, January-April 2020
- New website launched featuring all past and current exhibits
- 5 catalogues produced
- 8 virtual studio tours of artists who had exhibited at the Schechter Gallery, 4,000 Facebook views, March-May 2020



New Initiatives

- **3,000 participate in Tisha B'av "word duels"** on Facebook, where six young talented writers from various professions read original texts on opposing world views, July 2020
- **"In All the Worlds" 5-part literary series** supported by Israel's Ministry of Culture. Prominent Israeli authors discuss their creative process inspired by the Kabbalistic concept "Four Worlds;" Zoom and Facebook, 250 participants; 1500 views of recorded lectures, July-September 2020
- **"Beams" Digital Culture Magazine** uploaded for Shavuot, 700 views, May 2020
- **"Intimate Erev Shavuot Study"** with Rabbi **Roberto Arbib** and talks by artist **Gary Goldstein** and curator **Moran Shoub**, May 2020
- **1st Annual Hebrew Literature Festival** over 3 evenings dedicated to exploring the word "Threshold," with panels, readings, films and music, December 2019
- **Multi-Arts Rosh Hashana Happening** where 20 artists took over every room in Neve Schechter in their exploration of "Reflections on Repentance," September 2019
- **Concerts Celebrating Jewish Holidays:** Jewish Persian traditional music for Slichot; Israeli Funk and Dance for Purim; and A-Capella soulful songs for Shavuot
- **"Torah Lishma" Talmudic study** went online in March, attracting additional students both in Israel and overseas



From left: Torah Lishma students in the Atid Sanctuary; Band members of A-WA receive the Neve Schechter Prize for Contemporary Art from Romina Reisin, January 2020.

Midreshet Schechter & Midreshet Yerushalayim



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Rabbi Prof. David Golinkin

Director:
Rabbi Irina Gritsevskaya

Rabbinic Shlich, Kiev:
Rabbi Reuven Stamov

Educational Director,
Camp Ramah-Ukraine:
Gila Katz

Midreshet Yerushalayim-Ukraine, the only Conservative Jewish educational network in the FSU, sponsors Jewish-Zionist education in Ukraine, enabling over 1,000 Jews to reconnect to their heritage through school, synagogue and summer camp programs.

Midreshet Schechter offers continuing adult education programs to over 700 veteran Israelis and immigrants in Hebrew, Russian and English in Bet Midrash frameworks. Taking place at Masorti congregations and community centers all over Israel, the program offers 23 weekly classes throughout the year.

Opposite page:
Ramah-Ukraine Day Camp in Kiev.

Right: Children of Chernowitz Ramah-Ukraine Day Camp “zoom” with youngsters from the other day camps around Ukraine.

Community Unity in the time of Corona

COVID-19 reached Ukraine in March 2020 with a subsequent nationwide lockdown. Midreshet Yerushalayim staff immediately set up an online presence, which unified the Jewish communities of Kiev, Odessa, Kharkov, Chernowitz and Berdichev in ways never before experienced. A situation that could have easily deteriorated into isolation and loneliness was met with creative solutions that bridged the physical distance between people, building a sustainable Jewish alternative in time of need. Program highlights that reached all Midreshet Yerushalayim communities:

- 2nd year of a Jewish Studies Training Program supported by the L.A. Pincus Fund for Jewish Education, offered courses in Bible, Jewish History and Prayer to over 75 Jewish educators
- Kabbalat shabbat, Havdalah services and Torah reading classes
- Lectures from Schechter faculty with simultaneous translation into Russian
- Three Hebrew study groups and childrens' activities
- Pesach tutorials on how to conduct a Seder; for many, this was their first Seder at home alone

Camp Ramah-Ukraine Transitions to Day Camps

Covid-19 prevented the opening of Camp Ramah-Ukraine for the first time in 28 years. Instead, four day camps were held in Kiev, Chernowitz, Odessa and Kharkov, with 120 children and 20 local counselors. Pre-camp Zoom sessions for the staff ensured the same high quality programs synonymous with the camp's reputation.



Kharkov, Newest Kehillah

In January 2020, a Conservative Kehillah was launched in Kharkov, Ukraine's second largest city with a Jewish population of 50,000. A Schechter-supported Jewish day school of 120 children is a natural pool from which the congregation will draw. The community celebrated many events together, including Tu B'shvat, Purim and Kabbalat Shabbat and Havdalah services.

Kehillot in Action

- **Kiev:** Midreshet Yerushalayim/Masorti Olami synagogue and educational center, led by Schechter graduate **Rabbi Reuven Stamov**, attracts 250 active participants with a full range of programming. The center of Conservative life in Ukraine, it hosted Ambassadors from Great Britain and Germany and other EU dignitaries this year
- **Chernowitz:** Kehillat Aviv, led by **Lev Kleiman**, a recent graduate of the Torah reading course; with 100 active participants and a vibrant NOAM youth group
- **Odessa:** Kehillat Tiferet, led by **Zeev Waksman**, 60 active members, including 15 young families
- **Kharkov:** a new kehillah in formation (see above)
- **Berdichev:** Learning center for 20 young families

From left: A pre-Corona Purim party in Odessa; Ramah-Ukraine day campers from Kharkov – Midreshet Yerushalayim's newest kehilla – pose in front of their TALi school; Lifting the Torah for Ramah campers in Kiev.





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Saul I. Sanders

President
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Rabbi Prof. David Golinkin

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Eitan Cooper

Director of Development:
Anya Segal

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Avrum Lapin, The Lapin
Group, LLC

Organizations and institutions in Israel and around the world have been challenged by Covid-19 since early 2020 and the Schechter Institutes have been no exception. Yet, in the face of great financial uncertainty, we are very proud of the deep commitment demonstrated by our donor community to our mission and programs, with many donors responding to the crisis by renewing their annual gifts early, and, in some cases, increasing their support to help us meet the challenge.

This fundraising success has ensured the stability of the four Schechter non-profits as they made the transition to online learning, enabling them, throughout the pandemic, to offer outstanding Jewish

studies and experiences to Israelis and to expand their impact in Jewish communities around the globe.

As in years past, in 2019-2020, our diverse donor community included private individuals in North America and Israel, family foundations, Jewish Federations, the Jewish Agency for Israel, and the Israeli government. We are especially grateful this year to our many friends and partners, and thank them for their sustained generosity.

In July 2020, TALi signed a contract with the Peace Building Initiative of EuropeAid, a division of the European Union, which awarded €720,000 to the TALi Education Fund to expand TALi's Dialogue and Identity program over three years.

Opposite page: Vancouver Law & Learn 2019 Israel Seminar at the Schechter Institute.

The TALi Emergency Campaign

The lack of a government in Fall 2019 led to a loss of vital program support to TALi from the Ministry of Education. We are most grateful to 15 veteran donors who donated a total of \$135,000 to TALi at that time in order to make up for the shortfall.

New Operating Gifts, Grants and Allocations in 2020 (\$20,000 and up):

- **Anonymous Gifts** to the Graduate School in support of distance learning for the Schechter Amutot, and for the new M.A. program in Ofakim/Northern Negev
- **David Braun MD** for the Neve Schechter concert series, in honor of Dr. Richard Braun
- **Diane and Guilford Glazer Philanthropies** doubled its grant to the TALi 10th Grade Jewish-Israeli Identity Program
- **Toddy and Irving Granovsky** for an SRS Rabbinical Student Scholarship
- **JUF Jewish Federation of Metropolitan Chicago**, new commitments for the new Neve Schechter Artist-in-Residence program, the SRS Ashira Music Program and Schechter Adult Education
- **Shlomo Kramer** for the Neve Schechter concert series
- **The Liebhaber Family Foundation** for the SRS Ashira Music Program
- **Golda Feig Steinman and Ned Steinman** for the TALi Bar/Bat Mitzvah Seminar
- **Helmut and Eva Wellisch** for the "TALI Babayit – TALi at Home" on-line family activity sheets
- **Ed and Barbara Zinbarg** for "To Learn and To Teach: Training Masorti Rabbis to Work in the TALi School System"

Bequests and Allocations from Estates

- Gift from the Estate of **Arnold Gittelson z"l**
- Gift from the Estate of **Shirley Liebowitz z"l**

Capital Gifts

- **Anonymous donor** for purchasing a building for the Midreshet Yerushalayim Center in Kiev
- **Saul and Mary Sanders** for purchasing a building for the Midreshet Yerushalayim Center in Kiev



Schechter Leadership News

Dr. David Breakstone, a founding member of the Schechter Institute Graduate School, is retiring from his position as Vice President of the WZO. We wish David well, and look forward to his continued involvement as a member of our Board.

Prizes, Awards and Faculty Appointments

- **Prof. Alice Shalvi**, Board Member and former Rector and President of the Schechter Institute, won the prestigious National Jewish Book Award for her memoir, *Never a Native*.
- **Prof. Ed Greenstein**, a veteran Schechter Institute Board Member on the faculty of Bar Ilan University, was awarded the EMET Prize for Biblical research, often dubbed Israel's Nobel Prize.
- JTS honorary degrees were awarded to alumni and faculty including **Dr. Eitan Chikli**, **Rabbis Roberto Arbib**, **Mauricio Balter** and **Ari Bursztein**.
- **Dr. Sarah Schwartz** received a Schechter faculty appointment in Bible.

Above: Update on SRS, from left, top row: Rabbi Ezra Finkelstein, SRS student David Paran, Rabbis Avi Novis-Deutsch, David Golinkin; bottom row: WLCJ Executive Director, Rabbi Ellen Wolnitz Fields, SRS student Nava B. Meiersdorf and WLCJ Israeli Chair, Deb Bruce; Below (from left): Rabbi Jonathan Infeld, Canadian Amb. to Israel, H.E. Deborah A. Lyons, former Supreme Court Chief Justice Dorit Beinisch, Howard Mickelson and David Golinkin at the Gala Opening of the Israel Law & Learn Seminar; Left Picture: Sheri and Paul Robbins (left) with Rabbis David Golinkin and Avi Novis-Deutsch.





Staff News

Any Segal, who directed the Development Department since 2017, has left her position to pursue a doctorate in Jewish history at Tel Aviv University. We wish her much future success.

Board Meetings

- **The Schechter Institutes, Inc. Board of Trustees**, under the leadership of Chair **Saul Sanders**, met in November 2019, April 2020 and June 2020. **Prof. David Golinkin** discussed the Covid-19 crisis, the positive developments in distance learning and the allocation of a major bequest.
- **The Schechter Institute Graduate School's Board of Trustees**, led by Chair **Saul Sanders** and by Executive Committee Chair **Jonathan Steinberg**, met in December 2019, May 2020 and September 2020. At its September meeting, the Board ratified new by-laws for the Graduate School as mandated by the Council for Higher Education, and President **Prof. Doron Bar** reported on the successful new M.A. program based in the Negev town of Ofakim.
- **The Schechter Rabbinical Seminary Board of Governors**, under the leadership of Board Chair **Ilana Laderman Mushkin**, met in December 2019, April 2020 and August 2020. At the August meeting, Dean **Rabbi Avi Novis-Deutsch** reported on the highly successful Ashira summer semester and on the increase in the number of applicants to the Rabbinical Ordination program.
- **The TALI Education Fund Board**, chaired by **Roni Yannay**, met in January 2020. At the May 2020 meeting, **Dr. Peri Sinclair** was appointed as the Susan and Scott Shay TALI Director General and in July 2020, the Board honored outgoing Director General **Dr. Eitan Chikli**.
- **The Midreshet Schechter Board**, led by **Rabbi Prof. David Golinkin**, met in January 2020, when it appointed **Romina Reisin** as new Director of Neve Schechter. In August 2020, **Rabbi Irina Gritsevskaia**, Director of Midreshet Yerushalayim Ukraine, presented plans to purchase a building in downtown Kiev for its synagogue-educational center. A third meeting was held in October 2020.

Schechter Medal Awarded to the Kekst Family

In a moving ceremony in Jerusalem on November 14, 2019, **Carol Kekst** received the Schechter Medal honoring **Gershon Kekst z"l**, Carol Kekst and the Kekst Family for the immense contribution they have made to Schechter over more than three decades. Gershon Kekst z"l, a longtime Schechter Institute Board Member, together with his family, established the Kekst Faculty Fellowship, supported the capital campaign and donated generously to the annual campaign.

Vancouver's 2nd Israel Law & Learn Seminar Great Success

More than 30 prominent Canadian attorneys participated in Schechter's 2nd Israel Law & Learn Seminar held in Jerusalem in November 2019. Led for the second time by Vancouver attorney **Howard Mickelson**, QC and Congregation Beth Israel's **Rabbi Jonathan Infeld**, the seminar delved into "The Legalities of Creating a Modern Nation-State" from a civil and Jewish law perspective. Canadian Ambassador to Israel, **H.E. Deborah A. Lyons** opened the intensive five-day learning retreat, which included a memorable lecture by recently deceased **Prof. Ruth Gavison z"l**, Professor Emerita of Human Rights, Hebrew University.

Above from left: **Deena Pulitzer**, Senior Advisor, Israel Strategies, William Davidson Foundation with **David Golinkin**; Artist **Judy Kopelman** paints wall mural for the **Rabbi Henry and Yetta Siegel z"l Art Artium**; **David Golinkin** with **NOAM** leadership from Latin America.

Opposite page, top: President **Doron Bar** with PTHU colleagues in Amsterdam; bottom: Publicity for Schechter online Zoom and YouTube study.

Kudos for Schechter Zoom Lectures

“Like everyone else in the world, I am zoomed-out by now, or ‘oysgezoomed’. But I wandered into the Shavuot sessions... and they were uniformly excellent. Thanks for the diverse and thoughtful program.”

Joan Krauss, Jerusalem

Zooming with the President

Prof. David Golinkin gave more than 25 online lectures between March-September 2020, reaching thousands of viewers by Zoom, Facebook and media outlets, in English and Hebrew, with some lectures simultaneously translated into Russian. Highlights included: Sinai Temple, LA, September 2020; Half-hour interview with Dov Elboim on Israeli KAN TV, July 2020; Annual Women's Study Day, June 2020; Zoom Tikkun for Shavuot, May 2020; Yom Ha'atzmaut lecture for Kehillat Ma'arav, Santa Monica, CA, April 2020; International Reading of The Holocaust Scroll, April 2020; Lectures on "Ten Brief Halakhic Responsa to the Corona Crisis," March 2020.

Prior to the onset of Covid-19, **Prof. Golinkin** served as a scholar-in-residence at Conservative congregations and lectured widely in Israel and abroad in 2019-20. **In North America:** Beth Shalom Synagogue, Columbia, SC, **Rabbi Jonathan Case**, February 2020 • **RA/USCJ Convention**, three lectures, Boston, MA, December 2019 • **Adath Israel Congregation**, Toronto, Canada, **Rabbi Adam Cutler**, November 2019 • **Temple Beth Shalom**, Roslyn Heights, NY, **Rabbi Alan Lucas**, November 2019 • **In Israel:** Hanaton pre-army program, "The Conservative Approach to Jewish Law," January 2020 • **Shalem College**, "The Conservative Approach to Jewish Law," January 2020 • **TALI South American Counselors**, January 2020 • **SRS, JTS and Ziegler students**, "The Conservative Approach to Jewish Law," November 2019 • "Jerusalem Customs," Vancouver Law & Learn Seminar, November 2019.

Schechter Online

Responsa in a Moment: Online Winner

Responsa in a Moment, the bi-monthly column by Prof. David Golinkin on a broad range of subjects relating to contemporary Jewish law and life, is creating great online interest. In 2020, over 16,000 readers visited the site, with 1,600 views in a single day and a total of more than 250,000 visits over the years.



In addition to the Responsa column, the Schechter Institutes website registered impressive growth over the past year, with a 20% increase in viewership, reaching 153,000 users in 2020 and close to a half million views altogether. Schechter YouTube channel statistics more than doubled, with 164,000 viewers! The ShavuaTov@Schechter videos, a weekly 5-minute format of Jewish learning, is proving very successful with almost 10,000 views in 2020 and an archive of close to 200 videos.

EU Erasmus Grant Sends Faculty to Netherlands

Dr. David Frankel taught Bible to a number of classes at the Protestant Theological University, Amsterdam (PThU); **Dr. Einat Ramon** taught at the Protestant Theological University, Groningen and the University of Groningen, Netherlands, and met with chaplains and teachers of chaplaincy at the PThU, Amsterdam, September 2019; **Prof. Batsheva Margalit Stern** lectured to the general public and students at PThU, Amsterdam, comparing the teaching of Women's Studies in Israel and the Netherlands, December 2019.

Zooming into Rosh Hashanah: The Schechter High Holiday Webinar
Sunday, September 13, 2020
 19:00-21:00 | 12:00-14:00 | 9:00-11:00
 Israel Time | East Coast Time | West Coast Time
 The hours listed below are according to Israel time

19:00 High Holiday Catechesis: from East to West
 Rabbi Prof. David Golinkin, President, The Schechter Institutes, Inc.

19:30 What are you willing to surrender for God? Rereading "Eikev" Take!
 Rabbi Dr. Bob Mintz, President, Medynah Rabbinat and Senior Lecturer, Schechter Rabbinical Seminary

20:00 Agnes's "Kohen Emot": On Conflict and Confession in old Jerusalem
 Eliza Cooper, Executive Vice President, Schechter Institutes

20:30 The Sa'ir la'Azazel (scapegoat) on Yom Kippur: another look at an ancient ritual
 Rabbi Chaya Rosen Babin, Practical Rabbinics, Schechter Rabbinical Seminary

The webinar is free of charge
[Join the Webinar HERE >>](#)
 For further information
www.schechter.edu

Shavua Tov @ Schechter
 In Parashat Va'era, Pharaoh refuses to allow the Israelites to leave Egypt, even after Aaron exhibits miraculous powers, transforming his staff into a serpent. Moses must take charge.
 Is there a connection between Harry Potter and Moses? Listen as Dr. Tamar Kadari, Dean of the Schechter Institute of Jewish Studies, shares with us a midrash about the magical staff of Moses.
 Watch the video below to learn more:

Read more by Dr. Tamar Kadari

To Support Schechter's Journey, Click Here

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The Schechter Institutes Operating Budget

(in \$US) January 1, 2020 – December 31, 2020

Income		Expenses	
1. Schechter Institute of Jewish Studies Graduate School			
Federations and Foundations	900,480	Faculty Salaries	1,269,428
Contributions	1,175,907	M.A. Student Tuition Scholarships	227,142
Tuition and Fees	976,627	Library, Academic Research, Publishing	321,344
Endowment Income	266,571	Other Educational/Academic Projects	201,183
Book sales, rental income, miscellaneous	98,285	Student Recruitment/Marketing	206,406
		Administration and Campus Maintenance	654,132
		Development and PR	538,235
Sub-Total	3,417,870		3,417,870
2. TALI Education Fund			
Jewish Agency	327,400	Educational Resources/Curriculum Development	268,231
Foundations and Federations	613,779	Pedagogic Counseling	362,437
Contributions	889,171	Informal Activities and School Resources	164,583
Israeli Government	285,344	Halleli and Professional Development	194,753
Fees for Sales, Services	174,409	Early Childhood Department	172,187
Interest and miscellaneous	21,513	High School Projects	191,326
		Special Projects and New Media	388,749
		Network Expansion, Supervision and Evaluation	227,450
		Administration	341,900
Sub-Total	2,311,616		2,311,616
3. Schechter Rabbinical Seminary			
Jewish Agency, KKL, Israeli Govt.	102,421	Faculty Salaries	416,276
Contributions	202,478	Student Stipends and Internships	186,295
Earmarked gifts and grants	442,812	Ashira-Tehilot Music Programs	103,545
Tuition and Fees	152,829	New Media Projects	29,913
Interest and miscellaneous	18,537	Torah Lishma	42,493
		Administration	140,555
Sub-Total	919,077		919,077
4. Midreshet Schechter – Israel			
Jewish Agency	26,885	Schechter Centers – Adult Education Courses	124,256
Foundations and Federations	185,610	Neve Schechter Programming	268,554
Israeli Government/Municipalities	153,267	Neve Schechter Maintenance and Operations	127,345
Contributions	148,322	Administration	102,695
Rental, participation fees, miscellaneous	108,766		
Sub-Total	622,850		622,850
5. Midreshet Yerushalayim – Ukraine			
Federations and Jewish Agency	64,000	Educator Training – Courses, Seminars	79,500
Foundations	112,116	Ramah and NOAM – Camps and Youth Activities	118,200
Contributions	238,954	Rabbi/Shaliach Salary and Housing	85,700
Masorti Olami	75,400	Kiev Center Rent and Expenses	55,170
		Direct Support for Other Communities	59,840
		Administration	92,060
Sub-Total	490,470		490,470
TOTAL	7,761,883		7,761,883

Written and edited by Linda Price

Photos: Moriah Karsagi Aharon, Din Aharoni, Netta Alonim, Ilana Foss, Etai Nadav, Neve Schechter,
Aviv Pressburger, David Rosen, Barbara Slater



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