



The Schechter Institutes, Inc.
שוחרי עמותות שכטר



Pluralistic Jewish Education Reaching the World: **One Zoom at a Time**

The Schechter Institutes
Annual Report 2020-2021

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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 1863 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 20,000 Tel Avivians every year to concerts, classes, cultural events and art exhibits.

Written and edited by Linda Price

Photos: Moriah Karsagi Aharon, Neta Alonim, Ilana Foss, Yehoshua Halevy, Ilya Melnikov, Maayan Moskona, Etai Nadav, Jorge Novominsky | Graphic design: Yula Verman



These past eighteen months have created real challenges for all of us. But what has served as a constant in this new world of uncertainty is the incredible resilience that most communities have demonstrated in the face of Covid-19. In spite of hardship – economic, physical, emotional and social – what prevailed were creativity, innovation, commitment and hard work. Nowhere were these ideals better realized than at The Schechter Institutes.

This year's Annual Report is a testament to the strength of our four educational institutions. You'll meet rabbinical student Doron Rubin, whose Zoom project, "Grandma's Tales" connected hundreds in Ashkelon; Yahaloma Zechut, an MA student whose personal example guides the way for scores in her native town of Ofakim; Karina Ebrani and Roula Azar, teachers in TAL's co-existence project, who braved both Corona and a war to keep their Zoom meetings going; Yael Biegon Citron, a literary star shining bright on Neve Schechter and Reuven Stamov, Kiev's "Singing Rabbi" who shepherded his congregation to a new and permanent home.

In a year that demanded from all of us great patience, flexibility and ingenuity, we here at Schechter re-doubled our efforts to allow pluralistic Jewish education to reach the world: one Zoom at a time."

Letter from the Chairman



Dear Friends,

Want to study Mishnah each day? Learn about Jewish Holidays, Jewish Music or Jewish Art? All of these are available through the Schechter Institutes. The “silver lining” of Corona, as we have all learned, is in the world’s speedy transition to long distance learning. The Schechter Institutes has been no exception. Greatly enhancing our online presence in all our institutions, Schechter is now reaching a much broader demographic, which has translated into increased numbers of students:

- **The Graduate School** now offers many more remote learning options. Our accredited academic courses as well as the wide array of adult education classes for the general public, in different languages and time zones, are making it much easier for prospective students around the world to join the Schechter arc of learning.
- **The Schechter Rabbinical Seminary** has extensively utilized social media in reaching new communities and it’s “Grandma’s Tales” which connected Kehillot, rabbinic interns and the elderly in an exciting multi-generational project will be duplicated in the coming year.
- **The TALi Education Fund** curricula are being translated into 15 languages to be used extensively online in Jewish Day Schools throughout Europe, and its series of short videos for young Israelis on Jewish life and values is a true contribution to the Jewish discourse in Israel.
- **Neve Schechter in Tel Aviv** adapted itself beautifully to the ever-changing Covid-19 regulations, initiating meaningful programming both online, and then in their beautiful 19th century courtyard, when larger gatherings were permitted. And most exciting, the design for our first TALi Gan (kindergarten) has been completed and we soon expect to break ground.
- **Midreshet Yerushalayim in Ukraine** also shares exciting news! In Kiev, continued growth of active participants required more space and we have purchased our first permanent home which should open in late Fall; and in Kharkov, a new congregation has been established.

Finally, I must thank the William Davidson Foundation for undertaking a broad external evaluation of the impact the Graduate School and the TALi Education Fund are having on students, and in turn, on Israeli society at large. The results are incredibly encouraging and a true endorsement of the importance of Schechter’s educational work. A full 93% of alumni questioned gave Schechter credit for introducing concepts of Jewish pluralism and inclusivity into their lives. And in TALi, the study showed that TALi’s impact is systemic with beneficiaries including children, teachers and even Ministry of Education professionals. Feedback from teachers pointed to the outstanding quality and effectiveness of TALi textbooks and online study resources.

In spite of the ongoing worry and uncertainty that Covid-19 so unexpectedly thrust into our lives, I am proud of the Schechter Institutes who went up against a daunting liability, quickly turning this pandemic into an opportunity for growth and development. We thank you for your crucial support, which enables us to have such a huge impact on Israeli society and the Jewish world.

With prayers for a safe and healthy New Year,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Saul I. Sanders". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Saul" and last name "Sanders" clearly distinguishable.

Saul I. Sanders

Chairman of the Board, The Schechter Institutes, Inc.

Letter from the President



In August, 1936, Prof. Mordecai Kaplan wrote in his diary: *"The resistance to tradition in Eretz Yisrael is so intense that no one will pay attention to a book dedicated to the concept of God. There, theophobia dominates."* (*Communings of the Spirit*, Vol. II, pp. 78-79)

Scroll forward 85 years. Gidi Dar, the secular Director of a new, animated film about the Destruction of the Second Temple was asked (The Jerusalem Post, July 9, 2021) why he made such a film:

Growing up in the secular Israeli community... "We didn't have access to what came before 100 years of Zionism... We learned something about the Bible in school, sure, but there were 2,000 years of the Talmud and Jewish texts, not just the laws, but also the poetry and the legends that we didn't know enough about... but Zionism burned the bridge to the Diaspora. I understand why they had that impulse, and it succeeded so well, beyond anyone's dream. But at a certain point, it came to a dead end."

"My grandfather was a pioneer, my parents were committed Zionists... and they did miracles... Now we have a lot of material goods, but we have a spiritual problem... Zionism gave the Torah to the religious community, saying: 'it's yours, not mine'."

Thus, one of the major challenges of Israeli society remains: how can Schechter help Israelis overcome their Theophobia? How can we reconnect Israeli Jews to "2,000 years of the Talmud and Jewish texts, not just the laws, but also the poetry and the legends" that they did not learn in school?

During the past year, despite all the challenges of the Covid pandemic, the Schechter Institutes have continued to grow and to innovate. Enrollment has increased by 25-100% in all of Schechter's academic and adult-education programs, especially via Zoom.

The Schechter Rabbinical Seminary has founded the Mishlei Fellowship program to help Mishlei students develop community projects out in the field; as well as a joint program with TALi to train TALi rabbis.

TALi has continued to innovate with its new Bar/Bat Mitzvah, 10th grade Jewish Identity and Halleli leadership programs, while writing 80 curricular units in 15 European languages via the EFI program.

New programs at Neve Schechter include the Learning Community; the Artists' Incubator; and the Artists in Residence. Finally, in Ukraine, we celebrated the 30th anniversary of Midreshet Yerushalayim and Camp Ramah Ukraine and we are about to open our new synagogue/outreach campus in Kiev.

We hope and pray that the pandemic will end as soon as possible. In the meantime, we thank you for your generous support and – as the nurse said to me as she gave me my third vaccine – *B'shem hashem na'aseh v'natzliah*, "In the name of God, may we do and succeed"!

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

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



Jewish Activism in Ofakim

Yahaloma Zechut, an activist who founded the Community Resilience Center in Ofakim, is a Schechter MA student in the Ofakim Leadership MA program

There is nothing ordinary about Yahaloma Zechut. Even her name. At birth, she was named after her maternal grandmother, “Diana,” or “diamond” in French. But the local authorities in the northern Negev town of Ofakim urged the young immigrant parents from Egypt to give their “sabara” a Hebrew name. Hence, Yahaloma – from the Hebrew word “Yahalom,” meaning “diamond.” It’s as if Yahaloma’s struggle to be recognized as a woman of Sephardic background began at birth.

“I always had to work harder to fit in, to be better at what I did,” remembers Yahaloma. At 18, unlike most of her peers in Ofakim, Yahaloma enlisted in the army and was accepted to the first professional course – electrical mechanics – opened to women in the IDF. She was an officer in the Israeli Air Force for 30 years, reaching the rank of Commander. “Our generation paved the way for our children. While we were mechanics, our children today are engineers,” she says.

In 2012, during a Hamas rocket attack targeting southern Israel, a huge missile landed in front of Yahaloma’s home. “In any crisis, physical casualties are dealt with, but the emotional scars are left to fester.” At that moment, at age 50, Yahaloma decided to leave the army, turning her full attention to working with trauma patients in Ofakim and augmenting her education. “My agenda was to build a strong community that functions well in peacetime, so that in times of crisis, a healthy structure is in place,” she explains.

In ten short years, Yahaloma earned both BA and MA degrees in Public Policy, while at the same time initiating a long list of social and cultural projects in Ofakim, including: the Hosen Center for Community Resilience with a pool of over 130 volunteers; a community Bet Midrash where over 100 residents study weekly; Young Leadership and university incentive programs for the youth of Ofakim.

Most recently, Yahaloma partnered with Schechter to create a tailor-made MA program in Jewish Studies for educators in Ofakim. Today, ten residents study in the program. “My goal has always been to broaden knowledge, ask questions and push for answers; not to be simple volunteers, but to be activists,” she explains.

A highlight for Yahaloma has been uncovering her family history through a course offered by Schechter. Paying it forward, Yahaloma has initiated a “Roots Project” for her cadre of volunteers in Ofakim. Based on taped interviews, their poignant family stories will be published for future generations. “Everything I learn at Schechter somehow makes its way back to Ofakim.”

“**Everything I learn
at Schechter somehow
makes its way back
to Ofakim.**”



Donning Many Caps

Doron Rubin, Schechter educator par excellence, teaches a Midreshet Schechter community Bet Midrash in Ofakim, advises two MA Leadership programs, and most recently, has joined the Schechter Rabbinical Seminary for full-time studies

“I’m thrilled that Schechter has given me the opportunity and the platform to work with so many diverse communities... where you can renew others and be renewed yourself.”

When asked his age, Doron Rubin quips: “25 years plus 26 years experience” – summing up a lifetime of community activism, commitment to Conservative Judaism and a love of learning. Doron grew up in Haifa in a secular Zionist home, but from the time of his Bar Mitzvah at Kehillat Moriah, he knew where he was going. A NOAM youth group leader, he joined the army with other NOAM recruits; married an SRS-ordained rabbi, Judit; and then traveled to England as a NOAM emissary. Since then, he has excelled at non-profit management, working for years with Hillel and the Jewish Agency on Israel-Diaspora projects. Recently, he founded a business – *Tzmicha* – with a twist: to “grow” Jewish education for older students.

Wryly, Doron asserts that “education is wasted on the young.” Not that he discounts the importance of reaching younger populations, but “many important decisions are happening later in our lives, especially in the 21st century when professions and parenting are postponed well into the 30s.” The Jewish world in which he works “is very complicated, where a huge gap exists between ideology and reality, between values practiced and preached. You have to be mature to incorporate all these contradictions into a world view,” he explains.

Desiring to augment his Jewish knowledge, Doron enrolled in SRS’s rabbinic program. As an intern this year at Ashkelon’s Kehillat Netzach Yisrael, Rubin, together with Rabbi Gustavo Surazski, created a very successful program called “Grandma’s Tales” in response to the pandemic. Each week, grandmothers with children at the five TALl pre-schools in Ashkelon read stories to them via Zoom, creating special bonds and a sense of self worth on both sides.

Doron wears many caps at Schechter. He coordinates the Maccabee MA program for Community Leadership and helped establish an MA program for residents of Ofakim and the Negev, where he worked closely with the Jewish Federation of MetroWest, NJ. In addition, he runs a Schechter Bet Midrash in the town that meets twice a month with 25-30 residents participating. “It’s a great group which continued to be active throughout Corona,” he says.

“Give a job to a busy man,” goes the adage and Doron Rubin fits the bill. In addition to his Schechter work and study, he has five children aged 24 to 9, and he volunteers on boards of a number of non-profits, including the TALl Education Fund. “I’m thrilled that Schechter has given me the opportunity and the platform to work with so many diverse communities – always being challenged by new situations where you can renew others and be renewed yourself.”



Living Co-Existence

“What with Corona and then the war, thank God, we had this connection, even though it was virtual.”

Karina Ebrani

“I’ve seen this program through tough times and good times. My answer? Double the amount of classrooms engaged in *Dialogue and Identity*.”

Roula Azar

Teachers **Karina Ebrani** (left), TALI Hod Hasharon School, and **Roula Azar** (right), the Greek Orthodox School, Ramla, are both facilitators for TALI’s *Dialogue and Identity* program. They knew it would be a challenging year due to Corona. But they never envisioned that war would pose the greater risk to the fragile dialogue they had built between their students, as missile attacks and violence struck in the heart of their home towns

“It was surreal. All five of us were on Zoom, at the end of May, discussing the final meeting of *Dialogue and Identity*, when the sirens went off, followed by explosions of intercepted rockets coming out of Gaza. One at a time, we rushed out of the Zoom meeting to be with our families in the ‘secure’ rooms,” remembers Karina.

Two teachers from each school led the program of sixth graders. In TALI Hod Hasharon, Karina works closely with Helen, a devout Muslim and a veteran TALI teacher of Arabic who lives in Jaljulia, an Israeli Arab town not far from Kfar Saba. Roula’s teaching partner is Monica, a Christian Arab from Ramla. The four met extensively over the year to plan all four of the scheduled Zoom meetings, with essential input from Tamer, a facilitator who today lives in Ramallah, and a team of *Dialogue and Identity* professionals.

Roula, a Christian Arab who was born in Lod and has lived her whole life there, and Karina who lives in Kfar Yona, not far from Netanya, began working together in the summer of 2020. Covid-19 was running rampant in Israel, with most of the country in total lock-down, including all schools. The program took place online for the entirety of the school year. “Zoom definitely created special challenges,” admits Karina.

Roula, a veteran educator in *Dialogue and Identity*, with a BA in English, an MA in long-distance learning and a diploma in school administration, inaugurated the program between TALI Hod Hasharon and her school in Ramla eight years ago. She knows the importance of physical contact, the hugs and the kisses that

happen after a successful encounter; the warm cultural exchange that takes place after visits to the synagogue, mosque and church. "All these elements make up the cornerstone of the program," explains Roula. But this year taught her patience and the need to persevere. "We can't give up, especially now. The year, technically was not easy. But all four meetings took place and they were successful."

This was Karina's first year with *Dialogue and Identity*, although she is a veteran TALI teacher and a graduate of the TALI Hallelu Educational Leadership Program. "What with Corona and then the war, thank God, we had this connection, even though it was virtual. We live here together. We were all in the bomb shelters together. We need to accept the differences within each of us."

Roula feels that enlisting younger elementary school age children has been the key to the program's success. "Over the years, I've seen how my students have evolved. How they have influence over their families and friends. There have been a number of cases where TALI families and Greek Orthodox School families have met outside the confines of the program," she shares proudly.

"As difficult as the year was, all children, without exception, wanted to continue the program and the dialogue," says Karina. "'Knowledge is power' and *Dialogue and Identity* is empowering our children with the self-confidence to tear down their walls of fear."

The real proof of Roula's commitment to the program? Both her older children (today aged 15 and 13) are graduates of *Dialogue and Identity*. "They gained incredible insight and important values that will carry them into their adult lives," she says.

Roula sums up the challenges and hopes for the future. "We can't give up and we won't give in to violence. We need more programs like *Dialogue and Identity*, for this is where it must all begin: in honest conversations coming from a place of love, respect and the self confidence to be tolerant. I've seen this program through tough times and good times. My answer? Double the amount of classrooms engaged in *Dialogue and Identity*. She adds, "I'm lobbying for an additional class next year in the Greek Orthodox school."

Dialogue and Identity is a co-existence program established by the TALI Education Fund in 2006, together with the Rossing Center for Education and Dialogue. It operates in 24 schools with 720 students and 72 lead staff. 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. Recently, the European Union has awarded *Dialogue and Identity* a substantial grant to enlarge the program, with the number of participating schools increasing to 40 in 2021-22.



From top: *Dialogue and Identity* teachers from TALI Hod Hasharon and The Greek Orthodox School discuss programming. From left: Roula, Monica, Tamer, Karina and Helen.

"Zoom Dialogue" between children of TALI Hod Hasharon and The Greek Orthodox School, Ramla.



A New Home for Kiev's *Kehillat Masoret*

Exactly thirty years after Midreshet Yerushalayim was founded in 1991, its thriving Kiev community is making history as it prepares to move into the first Conservative synagogue building in the FSU in October 2021.

Rabbi Reuven Stamov, spiritual leader of *Kehillat Masoret* and Katya Karelshcheyn, project architect and a member of his Kehillah, show renovation plans for the campus complex.

“In the coming years, we will offer a TALI pre-school, a mikveh and a Student Residency and Rabbinic Preparatory Program to nurture a cadre of future Jewish leaders for Ukraine”

Rabbi Reuven Stamov

In 2020, the Schechter Institutes purchased an architectural gem on the edge of Kiev's historic neighborhood, Podil. “It is very poetic that our permanent home will be located in an area once filled with Jewish life,” says Rabbi Stamov, spiritual leader of *Kehillat Masoret*. The new premises, dating back to the time of the Tsars, cover two floors of over 900 sq. m. (close to 10,000 sq. ft.) and is five times the size of the community's current location.

Initially, the Kehillah will concentrate its activities on the second floor with a sanctuary, office space, a large kitchen and classrooms. This newest of Schechter campuses was made possible through the generosity of Saul and Mary Sanders, Howard and Diane Wohl and anonymous donors, and the professional expertise of Midreshet Yerushalayim Director Rabbi Irena Gritsevskaya in purchasing the property.

Rabbi Reuven Stamov, 47, together with his indefatigable partner and wife, Mihal, are building a vibrant community in the Ukrainian capital. Known as the singing rabbi, Reuven, a Schechter rabbinical graduate, arrived with his family of two daughters (now three) in Kiev in March 2012. “We started from scratch. It was the Stamovs and a few other curious souls. Then I started to play my guitar... and things started happening,” Reuven remembers with a smile.

Kehillat Masoret's first address was a rental of 70 sq. mt. – two small rooms and a bathroom. Out of this modest

beginning evolved a flourishing Jewish community of more than 80 families, necessitating moves to larger premises every few years.

Last year's pandemic saw numbers rise, with new people participating in programs and Kabbalat Shabbat services via Zoom from Russia, Europe and Israel. Most exciting is a nascent community forming in Dnipro, Ukraine's fourth largest city, where a group of young Jewish professionals, looking for an open and inclusive Judaism, approached Stamov.

More space translates into more programming. In September 2021, *Kehillat Masoret* inaugurated 'Smart J', a popular afternoon program for kids in the FSU created and partially funded by Israel's Ministry of Diaspora Affairs. "Our hallways and classrooms are filled with youngsters breathing in Hebrew, Jewish History, English and more in such creative ways," says Reuven.

2022 will mark a decade for *Kehillat Masoret*. Rabbi Stamov already has big plans for the new campus, including a TALi pre-school, mikveh, and a Student Residency and Rabbinic Preparatory Program to nurture a cadre of future Jewish leaders for Ukraine. A tall order to fill, but Reuven has always set his sights high.



Above: Exterior of the new synagogue building of *Kehillat Masoret*.

Below: Members of *Kehillat Masoret* look forward to moving into their new home in downtown Kiev.





Art, Jewish Culture and Community

Yael Biegon Citron is an Artistic Director and Dramaturge whose collaboration with Neve Schechter has brought the art world closer to Jewish culture in ways never before imagined

Yael Biegon Citron, 33, approaches every new challenge with the profound awe of an artist paired with the precision of a scientist. No wonder. Her father is a respected theatre professor and her mother, a world renowned brain scientist.

She entered the courtyard of Neve Schechter a few years ago with an idea for a partnership, and from that moment on, the life of one of Tel Aviv's foremost venues for Jewish culture and the arts has been inestimably enriched.

The "Write Club" – a concept Yael imported from Atlanta to Tel Aviv – pairs six writers who duel over two opposing words in texts they have prepared before the event. "For Tisha B'av, we designed a word duel that paired the words "justice" and "law." For that live Facebook event, we attracted 3,500 participants!" Yael proudly shares.

Soon after the "Write Club," Yael teamed up with Neve Schechter to create "Zarkor" ("spotlight" in Hebrew), which invited musicians, actors, plastic artists, even medical clowns, to partner with Jewish studies scholars, asking the scholars to critique the art from their discipline's perspective. This dialogue resulted in six films that garnered 8,000 YouTube views over six nights of Hanukkah. "In the darkness of the solstice and the pandemic, we were shining light on creation and knowledge," says Yael.

What Yael is most excited about these days is the Artists' Incubator Program that she directs at Neve Schechter. "Artists need a sense of community, and once out in the real world, it can be a very lonely life, especially during this year of Covid-19, when almost all venues of expression were closed off. We are providing a home with space to play, create and learn from each other." The "value added" is the Jewish bookshelf. The artists come to study in Neve Schechter's Bet Midrash twice a month. "You can actually feel the electricity in the air as each Havruta dissects the texts." Neve Schechter hopes to expand the program in 2022 by incorporating its artists' incubator into a global net of Jewish artists that will learn together.

"What I love about Neve Schechter is that I was not forced to study Judaism, rather, I was invited to join a cultural dialogue that's been evolving for thousands of years. As an artist passionately curious about the arts, the experience becomes much more nuanced and rich," Yael explains.

What I love about Neve Schechter is that I was not forced to study Judaism, rather, I was invited to join a cultural dialogue that's been evolving for thousands of years.

Pluralistic Jewish Education Reaching the World: One Zoom at a Time



**The Graduate
School**



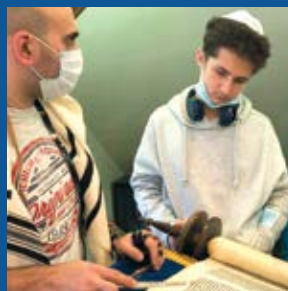
**Schechter Rabbinical
Seminary**



**TALI Education
Fund**



**Neve Schechter Center
for Jewish Culture**



**Midreshet Schechter
and Midreshet
Yerushalayim**



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 2020-21

- 400 students, including 110 first-year students
- 78 faculty members, 16 full-time, 62 part-time
- 13 interdisciplinary M.A. tracks of Jewish Studies
- 55 graduates in 2021; 1863 graduates since 1994
- 10 books published by Schechter and Schechter faculty
- Over 50 conferences/study events live and by Zoom

The Graduate School and Covid-19

The Covid-19 pandemic had a positive impact on enrollment, facilitating long-distance learning for greater numbers of students throughout Israel and the world. The Fall 2020 semester was taught exclusively on Zoom. The Spring 2021 semester offered hybrid learning with 60-70% of the students attending classes at Schechter with the remainder joining via Zoom. Most Fall 2021 courses are being offered "live," with some on Zoom.

Opposite page: Elinor Hyman, in the Israel/History of Zionism MA Program.
Top, from left: Dr. Gila Vachman, new Kekst Fellow; Graduation 2021, with Dr. Tamar Kadari and Prof. Doron Bar, congratulating a graduate.

New Dean

Dr. Noa Yuval-Chacham, a Senior Lecturer in Judaism and the Arts and Land of Israel Studies, is the Graduate School's new Dean, replacing **Dr. Tamar Kadari** who after three years of outstanding academic leadership, is stepping down to take a sabbatical. Yuval-Chacham has extensively researched Ancient Art in the Land of Israel and the Jewish Diaspora.

Academic Promotions

Profs. Doron Bar and **Yossi Turner** were promoted to Full Professor by the Appointments Committee of the Council for Higher Education and **Dr. Noa Yuval-Chacham** was promoted from Lecturer to Senior Lecturer.

Bible MA Expands Programs

The enhanced interdisciplinary Bible track, with 26 students and an additional 219 students enrolled in elective courses, initiated a number of exciting study possibilities for students and scholars alike, including: group study with Israel's national "929 Daily Torah Study"; a successful "Bible Toolbox" Workshop (continuing in 2021-22), which shared research tools with Bible students; and the establishment of a Research Team of young Bible scholars from various Israeli universities which meets once a month in a "Bible Incubator".

The Art of Curating

A new Curatorial Studies program launched in 2020 with 14 students and additional audit students. The 3-semester course, coordinated by **Shira Friedman** and **Dr. David Sperber**, taught the basics of the profession in all its complexity, from theory and history to design and exhibit launch. Weekly studies took place online and at Schechter, enriched with monthly gallery visits. Due to popular demand, a second course is being offered in 2021-22.



Kekst Faculty Fellow Announced

The Kekst Faculty Fellowship for 2021-23 has been awarded to **Dr. Gila Vachman**. A Lecturer in Midrash at Schechter for more than a decade, Vachman also heads up the Torah Lishma Bet Midrash program at Neve Schechter. She is the editor of *Midrash Haddash Al Hatorah* and the author of a popular commentary on the Book of Ruth.

Davidson Survey: High Marks to SIJS

A comprehensive external evaluation by **Dr. Leora Pascal**, commissioned by **The William Davidson Foundation**, a major supporter of Schechter and TALJ, surveyed Schechter Institute Alumni during the winter-spring of 2021. With 325 detailed questionnaires returned, as well as additional in-depth interviews conducted, the results are a resounding endorsement of the Schechter M.A. program, with 93% of alumni giving Schechter credit for introducing concepts of Jewish pluralism and inclusivity into their lives, 88% responding that their Jewish-Israeli identities were strengthened at Schechter and 64% noting the contribution Schechter studies made to their professional development.

Adult Education Numbers Up 70%

Schechter's English/Hebrew Continuing Education Program continued to grow in 2020-21, attracting over 500 students to 23 online classes, including eight classes geared specifically to a North American audience.

Bottom, from left: Ofakim Mayor Itzhak Danino presents Academic Achievement Award to Amit Abeksis, student in Ofakim MA program, with (from left) Prof. Doron Bar, Dr. Tamar Kadari, Dr. Aryeh Tepper and Doron Rubin; Students of the Curatorial Studies Program tour museum; Jerusalem MA course visit to Dome of the Rock, with Prof. Doron Bar.





Scholarship Enriching the Community

Schechter continued to reach both the academic community and the general public through the myriad of lectures and conferences it organizes and through the important publications it publishes. Much of the outreach in 2020-21 was accomplished via Zoom, enabling many more Israelis and others worldwide to enrich their knowledge.

- **Book Launch, *From Vienna to Jerusalem: Herzl's Final Journey***, Doron Bar and Anat Banin, August 2021
- **Book Launch, *The Fifth Decade: 1988-1998***, edited by Dr. Zvi Tzameret, Prof. Zeev Drori and Prof. Yehiam Weitz, July 2021
- **Annual Conference on Judaism and the Arts** co-sponsored by Bar Ilan University, July 2021
- **Ashira Pre-High Holiday Liturgy Workshops**, 90 students, July-August 2021
- **Book Launch, *Holiness in the Eye of the Storm: The Western Wall, 1967-2000***, by Prof. Doron Bar and Prof. Kobi Cohen-Hattabi, June 2021

Opposite page: Participants at the Book Launch of *Holiness in the Eye of the Storm*, by Profs. Doron Bar and Kobi Cohen-Hattabi.

- **Virtual National Women's Study Day** in four languages, over 600 participants from Israel, North and South America, Europe, Ukraine and Russia, June 2021
- **Book Launch**, *The Book of Ruth: Paradise Gained and Lost*, by Benjamin Segal, May 2021
- **Annual Rabbi David Aronson Memorial Lecture**, "Mishlei Students on The Ten Commandments," May 2021
- **International Agunah Day**, co-sponsored by ICAR – The International Coalition for Agunah Rights, guest speaker Rabbi Diana Villa, February 2021
- **22nd Annual Regional Women's Study Days**, February 2021
- **Musical Treasures from the National Library of Israel**, with Dr. Naomi Cohn-Zentner, February 2021
- **6th Annual Pirkei Avot Lecture in Memory of Dr. Aubey Rotenberg**, by Dr. Ruth Calderon, with 142 participants from Israel and North America on Zoom, doubling last year's turnout, November 2020
- **Violence Against Women**, 15th Annual Conference on Women and Gender in memory of Moshe Shalvi z"l, November 2020
- **NASHIM Journal Launch**, "Jewish Women Medical Practitioners in Europe Before, During and After the Holocaust," Issue #36 of NASHIM, co-sponsored by Hadassah Brandeis Institute, October 2020

New Books 2020-21

Published by Schechter

- *From Vienna to Jerusalem: Herzl's Final Journey*, Doron Bar and Anat Banin, co-published by the Central Zionist Archives, 2020
- *Responsa in a Moment, Vol. 5*, David Golinkin, 2021
- *Midrash Abba Gurion*, Synoptic Edition, Benjamin Elbaum and Yosef Tabori, The Midrash Project, Schechter Institute, 2021 (Hebrew)
- *Kohelet Rabbah and Zuta*, Part II, edited by Reuven Kipperwasser and David Golinkin, 2021 (Hebrew)
- *Nashim, A Journal of Jewish Women's Studies and Gender Issues*, eds. Renée Levine Melammed and Deborah Greniman, co-published by Hadassah Brandeis Institute and Indiana University Press. No. 38, Spring 2021; No. 39, on Diasporic Jewish Women's Writing, Fall 2021
- *The Book of Ruth*, Benjamin Segal, co-published with Gefen Publishers, 2020



Schechter Institute leaders and members of an interreligious dialogue course met with Latin Patriarch Pierbattista Pizzaballa, Jerusalem, April 2021.

Published by Schechter Faculty

- *Holiness in the Eye of the Storm: The Western Wall, 1967-2000*, Doron Bar and Kobi Cohen-Hattabi, Jerusalem: Magnes Press, 2021 (Hebrew)
- *The Western Wall: The Dispute Over Israel's Holiest Jewish Site, 1967-2000*, Doron Bar and Kobi Cohen-Hattabi, Leiden: Brill, 2020
- *Art with No Image*, Noa Yuval Chacham, Jerusalem: Magnes Press, 2021 (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. [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/>

15th Annual Conference on Women and Gender. Liora Harrari Amedi receives the Prof. Alice Shalvi Scholarship for Excellence in Gender Studies from Dr. Tamar Kadari, along with conference organizers, November 2020.





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 Reaches Diverse Populations During Covid-19

The Schechter Rabbinical Seminary and its talented student body, met the challenge of Covid-19 with creativity and compassion. Innovative online programming reached thousands in their homes, with weaker populations getting special attention. "Live" classroom learning resumed in April 2021.

Opposite page: SRS rabbinical student, Theo Itzhak Hotz, prepares for Torah reading in the Bet Midrash. Insert: Rabbi Oded Peles celebrates his ordination, February 2021.

Right: Rabbis Avi Novis-Deutsch and David Golinkin teach liturgy at Kehillat Kedem in Jerusalem: "We aspiring prayer leaders and those who simply enjoy the music love all aspects of Ashira Tehillot." – Yair Yaakov, Jerusalem

338 students Enrolled in SRS:

- 18 rabbinical students
- 22 *Mishlei* students for Jewish renewal and community action
- 40 students in Torah Lishma programs in Jerusalem and Tel Aviv
- 35 students in Ashira Jewish music program; 90 in pre-High Holiday Liturgy courses
- 36 special needs students in 3 Batei Midrash around the country and online
- 12 rabbis in advanced weekly Halakhah studies
- 80 students in *WhatsApp Judaism*-daily study groups
- All rabbinical students developed programs for the elderly, including "Grandma Tales" at Ashkelon's Kehillat Netzach Yisrael's TALI kindergartens

Mishlei Fellows Build Community

The Mishlei Program for Jewish Renewal and Community Leadership inaugurated the Mishlei Fellowship for all 14 first-year students. This important scholarship is empowering students to foster community projects that build on Jewish identity and social justice, as well as pursue an M.A. degree in Jewish studies.

Training to be TALI Rabbis

TALI Education Fund and SRS have joined forces to provide rabbinical students with the practical tools and expertise to engage children and families in meaningful Jewish programming. Twelve rabbinical students met weekly in 2021 to learn about TALI schools and pedagogy as well as complete internships in TALI schools. A grant from **Ed Zinbarg** and **Barbara Zinbarg z"l** will enable the program to continue through 2024.



Ashira High Holiday Workshops

90 students studied in a number of pre-High Holiday liturgy workshops for prayer leaders and music lovers. Courses were offered to two Jerusalem neighborhood communities and three workshops were offered in conjunction with the Hadar Institute and one with the Masorti Movement. *Ashira Tehillot*, now in its third year, trains lay prayer leaders. The 4-month winter course attracted 35 students in 2020-2021, offering them liturgical study in Ashkenazic, Sephardic and Contemporary Prayer.

WhatsApp? Mishna of course!

The Corona pandemic helped serve as an impetus for creative online learning. Eighty students from throughout the world joined Rabbi Avi Novis-Deutsch in the study of two mishnayot daily. The idea was so popular that two groups formed: a "silent" group and a "discussion" group.

New Rabbis in 2021

In a small yet moving ceremony that Covid-19 could not dampen, Rabbi Oded Peles became the 102nd rabbi to be ordained by the Schechter Rabbinical Seminary in February 2021. Israeli-born Peles leads Jerusalem's Masorti Kehillah in Gilo. Rabbi Amirit Rosen was ordained in April 2021 and is serving as Rabbi of Kehillat Moreshet Avraham, together with her husband, Rabbi David Goodman.

"Grandma's Tales" took place in Kehillat Netzach Yisrael's kindergartens, left to right: SRS student Doron Rubin and Rabbi Gustavo Surazski and a Grandma sharing a story; Mishlei Fellows in Bet Midrash H'avruta





TALI

Education Fund

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

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 educators are dedicated to strengthening Israeli society through promoting Jewish-Israeli identity, pluralism and Jewish continuity.

Numbers 2020-21

- TALI frameworks serve over 65,000 pupils: 79 elementary schools, including 9 integrated schools of religious and secular students; 19 high schools and 220 pre-schools.
- Halleli Professional Development: 47 participants in five programs around Israel; launching of *BaDerech*, a program which explores new expressions of Israeli Judaism.

Opposite page: Children from the TALI Ashdod School learning with Weekly Torah portion worksheets. Right: *Dialogue and Identity* students from the TALI Yitzhak Navon School, Yokneam, with students of the Franciscan School, Nazareth; TALI short videos on central Jewish values and ideas have been viewed extensively throughout Israel.

- **10th Grade Jewish Israeli Identity Program:** 19 high schools with 2,600 students, has doubled in size, thanks to the funding of **The Diane and Guilford Glazer Philanthropies, Lou z'I and Judy Miller and The Beverly Foundation.**
- **Dialogue and Identity Co-existence Program for Jewish and Arab children:** 24 schools, 72 lead staff, 720 students.
- **15 pedagogic counselors** provided guidance to over 3,000 teachers.
- **80 educational units in 15 languages and a designated website (jebd.org.il),** produced for Jewish community schools throughout Europe, in partnership with the Israel Ministry of Diaspora Affairs, Educating for Impact and United. TALI curricular materials are also widely used in South America at 30 day schools with 30,000 children.
- **9 Bar/Bat Mitzvah 2-day seminars** took place from March 2021 when Israeli schools re-opened after the Covid-19 shutdown. The innovative program will be expanded in 2021-22, funded by **Toddy and Irving Granovsky and Golda and Ned Steinman.**

Creative Solutions to Covid-19

- **17 short videos on pivotal Jewish ideas and values,** co-produced with Israel's Ministry of Education, provided exceptional online learning resources in Hebrew, with English and Spanish subtitles.
- **A full year of TALI@Home digital learning packages for family engagement** is being produced to correspond to the Hebrew calendar. Initiated in January 2021, this rich monthly online platform, funded by **Helmut and Eva Wellisch,** reaches families worldwide providing a plethora of games, activities and conversation topics in Hebrew, English and Spanish.
- **Ongoing and intensive collaboration between TALI's cohort of pedagogic counselors and TALI teachers** resulted in a repository of interactive digital resources tailor made for the long distance learning needs of each school; with materials extensively used throughout the year.



Dialogue and Identity Doubles in 2021-22

TALI's *Dialogue and Identity* co-existence program, with a generous 3-year grant from the EU, has almost doubled the number of participating schools, from 24 in 2020 to 40 schools in 2021. The program, successfully operating for 15 years, thanks to funding by **Anne Heyman z'I and Seth Merrin,** has created meaningful relationships between Jewish children in TALI schools and Christian and Muslim children in Arab schools through teaching shared religious values. In lieu of face-to-face encounters, prohibited due to Covid-19, digital meetings took place, along with the production of digital journals and 3 bilingual short videos. (see profile, page 6).

TALI Recognized as Extra-Curricular Program Provider

Israel's Ministry of Education has recognized TALI as an official provider of informal education to its public school system. A major achievement for TALI, this new status guarantees an increased presence of TALI pluralistic Jewish education in Israel's schools.

TALI Bat Mitzvah Seminar enjoyed by students of the TALI Luria School in Jerusalem.





Neve Schechter Legacy Heritage Center for Jewish Culture

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

Executive Director:
Romina Reisin

Curator:
Shira Friedman

Flexibility: 2021's Key to Success

Neve Schechter, one of Tel Aviv's most popular Jewish culture venues, provided exceptional online content during the height of the pandemic in late 2020. With many Israelis vaccinated by spring, the center went "live" in small groups in the courtyard. Summer once again hosted big events. What remained constant throughout the year was Neve Schechter's ability to build meaningful community with creative Jewish content.

Numbers 2020-21

- 50,000 online views and unique users for 50 events, videos and digital magazines
- 12,000 participants attended 45 lectures, concerts, holidays events and exhibits
- 60 Bar Mitzvahs, 6 weddings and 2 Brit ceremonies held in the Atid Sanctuary

Opposite page: Launch of the Learning Community, Neve Schechter, July 2021.

Right: Holocaust Remembrance Day (Yom Hashoa) study, Neve Schechter courtyard, April 2021.

Below, from left: L'Chaim for Torah Lishma students; Tisha B'av program; The Artists' Incubator and The "Write Club" meeting in the Atid Sanctuary and Simha and Sara Lainer Bet Midrash.

Masorti Kehillah of Neve Zedek

Neve Schechter houses the Masorti Congregation of Neve Zedek. Led by **Rabbi Roberto Arbib**, the kehilla runs a very successful Bar/Bat Mitzvah program.

Neve Schechter Prize for Contemporary Israeli Art

Neve Schechter awarded its Second Annual Prize for Contemporary Israeli Art, supported by the **Yehoshua Rabinovich Foundation**, to musician and social activist, **Neta Wiener**, in December 2020. Neta uses Hebrew, Yiddish and Arabic to reflect on identity through music, poetry, dance, and theater.

New Initiatives

Community building is an essential component of Jewish renewal. Neve Schechter launched new platforms in 2020/21:

- **The Learning Community**, with seven studies courses and social and spiritual events throughout the year; over 130 participants at launch, July 2021
- **The Artists' Incubator**, 12 actors, dancers, musicians and theater directors that met for peer-learning during Covid-19; today forms the Tel Aviv branch of *The Global Laboratory of Jewish Culture* with artistic director, **Yael Biegon Citron** (see profile, page 10)
- **The Write Club**, five evenings of contemporary Hebrew literature, with six writers "dueling" over words through their original texts, 1,000 participants, December 2020-July 2021
- **Music Evenings**, a review of 400 years of Jewish music, June 2021; Piyutim study and Love Songs for Tu B'Av, 300 participants, July 2021
- **Community Art Exhibit** by women in Rosh Hodesh learning group with **Dr. Marina Arbib**, June 2021



- **Holiday Programming "Live"**: Shlichot tour of south Tel Aviv, September 2021; Tu B'av lecture and concert; Tisha B'av spiritual/artistic gathering, 150 participants, July 2021; Holocaust Memorial Day, multi-generational discussion, April 2021; All-women reading of Megillat Esther in Atid Sanctuary, February 2021
- **Holiday Programming Online**: Purim, Digital Project of "Esther Cards," February 2021; Tu B'Shvat digital launch of urban photo exhibits by special needs students, January 2021; Chanukah "Spotlight" series of six filmed encounters between artists and Jewish scholars, December 2020; Sukkot, 11 short videos on the rich offerings that took place at Neve Schechter in spite of the pandemic, September 2020

The Schechter Gallery A "Must" See in Tel Aviv

The Schechter Gallery held seven exhibits of well-known Israeli artists in a personal visual dialogue with their Israeli/Jewish identity. In addition, ten gallery talks along with festive exhibit openings and closings and the production of six catalogues contributed significantly to Tel Aviv's cultural scene, especially in this year of pandemic.

The Schechter Gallery Residency Program enables four gifted Israeli artists to learn, create and exhibit their art. Launched in 2021, the 4-month program, funded by **JUF Jewish Federation of Metropolitan Chicago**, provides an on-site studio at Neve Schechter with professional mentoring provided by the Schechter Gallery curator.





Midreshet Schechter & Midreshet Yerushalayim

Chair:
Rabbi Prof. David Golinkin

Director:
Rabbi Irina Gritsevskaia

Rabbinic Shliah,
Kiev:
Rabbi Reuven Stamov

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 on-line programs, 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 annually.

Historic Move for Kiev's *Kehillat Masoret*

Kehillat Masoret moved into the first Conservative synagogue building in the FSU in October 2021, through generous gifts by Saul and Mary Sanders, Howard and Diane Wohl and anonymous donors, and the professional expertise of Midreshet Yerushalayim Director Rabbi Irina Gritsevskaia in purchasing the property. The historic building near downtown Kiev boasts two floors totaling close to 10,000 sq. ft. Run by Midreshet Yerushalayim with the support of Masorti Olami, the synagogue/learning center can now expand programming for all ages (see profile, page 8).

Opposite page: Members of *Kehillat Masoret* stand in what will soon be their sanctuary in the new campus.

Right: Ramah-Ukraine campers pose with a picture of Harriet and Ben Teitel, Ben N. Teitel Philanthropic Fund, a founding supporter of the Camp.

Bottom row, from left: Zoom learning in Ukraine and beyond; Lev Kleiman teaches Torah reading in Chernowitz; Purim in Odessa.

Covid-19 Brings Communities Closer

With new strains of Covid-19 menacing the world well into 2021, Midreshet Yerushalayim continued to expand its online presence in Ukraine, unifying the Jewish communities of Kiev, Odessa, Kharkov and Chernowitz in ways that conventional classroom learning could never have achieved. A talented team of educators both in Israel and Ukraine offered creative solutions to bridge the physical distance between people. Highlights included:

- 3rd year of a Jewish Studies Training Program supported by the **L.A. Pincus Fund for Jewish Education**, with courses in Bible, Jewish history and prayer for 70 educators and leaders of Jewish Ukraine. This year, **The Claims Conference** supported a new Holocaust study program
- Kabbalat Shabbat, Havdalah services, Torah reading classes and weekly Torah portion classes
- Lectures from Schechter faculty with simultaneous translation into Russian
- Three Hebrew study groups and childrens' activities
- "Judaism 101" weekly classes for conversion students and Jews new to Judaism

Kharkov Celebrates New Torah

In a dedication ceremony in May 2021, members of the new Kehillah in Kharkov received a Torah that will serve the community on Shabbat and holidays. More than 100 people joined the video ceremony, including dignitaries representing the Israeli consulate and Project Keshet and the principal of the Schechter-supported "Sha'alavim" School.



Ramah-Ukraine Camps Return

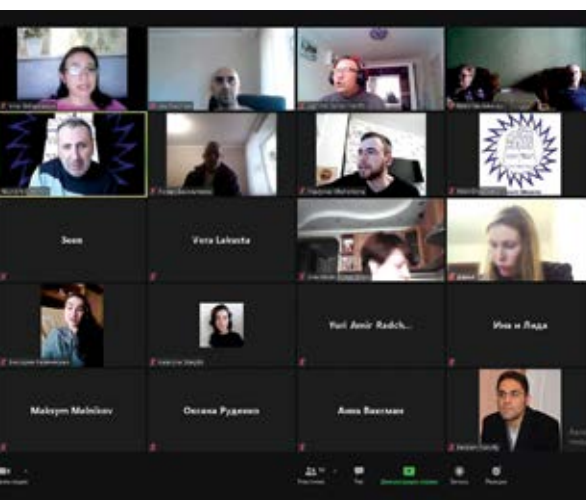
Camp Ramah-Ukraine fully operated in summer 2021, after being held as four Day Camps in 2020. The camp was conducted at 75% capacity to ensure smaller groups and safer transportation. And the popular **Ramah-Ukraine Family Camp** hosted 70 participants, enriching the Jewish lives of the families that came from all over Ukraine.

Ben & Harriet Teitel Camp Ramah Yachad Ukraine Staff Seminars

In acknowledgement of the crucial support of Camp Ramah Yachad Ukraine by the Ben. N. Teitel Philanthropic Fund for close to thirty years, the staff seminars are now called the **Ben and Harriet Teitel Camp Ramah Yachad Ukraine Staff Seminars**. 30 counselors and staff from Ukraine and Israel gather in January and immediately before the camp to plan the camp's program as well as enrich their Jewish knowledge.

Kehillot in Action

- **Kiev:** Midreshet Yerushalayim/Masorti Olami synagogue and educational center, led by Schechter graduate **Rabbi Reuven Stamov**, attracts 250 active participants
- **Chernowitz:** Kehillat Aviv, led by **Lev Kleiman**, with 100 active participants and a NOAM youth group. Of note: intergenerational project with the older generation resulting in a book about the city based on their memories
- **Odessa:** Kehillat Tiferet, led by **Zeev Waksman**; 60 active members, including 15 young families
- **Kharkov:** a new Kehillah in formation





Development and Communications

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

Executive Vice President:
Eitan Cooper

Director of Development:
Michal Makov Peled

North American
Representative:
Avrum Lapin, The Lapin
Group, LLC

Organizations and institutions in Israel and around the world continue to be challenged by Covid-19 and the Schechter Institutes has been no exception. In this uncertain environment, we can only express our deepest appreciation for the strong commitment demonstrated by our donor community to our mission and programs.

Over the past year (August 2020-July 2021) Schechter raised \$5,941,000 to fund the programs and operating expenses of our Graduate and Rabbinical schools, TAL Education Fund, Neve Schechter and Midreshet Yerushalayim, Ukraine.

This fundraising success has ensured the stability of the four Schechter non-profits as they navigated the many challenges of conducting outstanding programs throughout the pandemic and expanding their impact in Jewish communities around the globe.

Our diverse donor community includes private individuals in North America and Israel, family foundations, JAFI and KKL, Jewish Federations and the Israeli government. This year, we are especially grateful to our many friends and partners and thank them for their sustained generosity.

Opposite page: Delegation of Conservative leaders from North America meet with their Israeli counterparts at Schechter, July 2021

Right: Peter and Naomi Neustadter (left) meet with staff at their adopted TALI school in Jerusalem, with Drs. Peri Sinclair and David Golinkin (far right), May 2021.

New Operating Gifts, Grants and Allocations, August 2020-August 2021 (\$18,000 and up):

- Anonymous Israeli donor, Graduate School Bible Studies Program
- Anonymous Israeli donor, SRS Mishlei Fellows and Ashira Programs
- Anonymous US donor, Graduate School Distance Learning
- Anonymous US donor, MA and SRS Scholarships
- Anonymous US donor, TALI "Better Together" Israel High School Program
- The Claims Conference, Holocaust Study Program, Midreshet Yerushalayim, Ukraine
- Alice Goldfarb, MA Scholarships
- Toddy and Irving Granovsky, SRS Rabbinical Scholarship
- Israel Ministry of Diaspora Affairs, EFI Curriculum Project; Midreshet Yerushalayim, Ukraine
- Alan Kahn, Scholarships for Jewish Music Programs
- Liebhaber Family Foundation, Midreshet Yerushalayim, Ukraine
- David and Inez Myers Foundation, TALI Teacher Training
- Peter and Naomi Neustadter, TALI School Adoption, Har Homa
- Rochlin Foundation, Camp Ramah Ukraine
- Scott and Susan Shay, TALI General Support
- Smart J, Midreshet Yerushalayim, Ukraine
- Nathan and Lily Silver Family Foundation, TALI Pre-School & Other Programs
- Carl and Tove Sunshine, Neve Schechter, SRS and SIJS Programs
- Helmut and Eva Wellisch, MA Scholarships; TALI@ Home-Holiday Online Learning for Families
- Peter and Deborah Wexler, SRS Rabbinical Scholarship
- Ed Zinbarg, SRS Interns for TALI Schools in Memory of Barbara Zinbarg z"l

Capital Gifts:

- Howard and Diane Wohl, Renovation of Midreshet Yerushalayim-Masorti Center, Kiev
- Anonymous Donor, Renovation of Midreshet Yerushalayim-Masorti Center, Kiev



Schechter Leadership – News & Appointments

Amb. Colette Avital, former SIJS Executive Committee Chair, recently published her autobiography in Hebrew: *The Girl with the Red Tie*, by Yediot Publishers, Tel Aviv, 2021. We look forward to the English version!

Gealia Lapidot and **Julian Levy** were appointed to serve on the SRS Board of Governors; **Adir Waldman** stepped down from the Executive Committee of the Schechter Institute to join the new **Steering Committee for Neve Schechter** in Tel Aviv, which convened for the first time in July 2021.

Schechter Mourns the Loss of Devoted Leaders

Schechter will sorely miss the wise counsel, generosity and devotion to our educational mission of these true leaders who passed away this year: **Charles Dimston z"l** of Great Neck, New York, a generous supporter of MA Scholarships and Camp Ramah Ukraine; **Louis Miller z"l** of Los Angeles, CA, Schechter Institutes, Inc. Board of Directors Member, former Graduate School Trustee and a long-time supporter of the TALI Education Fund; **Arleen Rifkind z"l**, wife of **Robert Rifkind** of New York City, long-serving Chair of the Graduate School Board of Trustees and of The Schechter Institutes, Inc., and a devoted supporter of Schechter; **Barbara Zinbarg z"l**, wife of **Ed Zinbarg** of Short Hills, NJ, Schechter Rabbinical Seminary Trustee and long-time donors to the TALI Education Fund and SRS.

Staff News

Michal Makov Peled is Schechter's new Director of Development since January 2021. Coming with a rich background in Jewish-Zionist education and fundraising, Michal directed the JAFI Shinshinim Program, which sends hundreds of young Israelis to Jewish communities throughout the world to work in day schools, camps and college campuses.



Schechter leadership meets with newly elected Labor Party MK Rabbi Gilead Kariv at Schechter (top) and new Minister of Diaspora Affairs, Nachman Shai, at the Knesset.



“Zoom Outreach” Alleviates Covid Isolation

Schechter continued its “Zoom Outreach” in 2020-2021, ensuring a steady flow of meaningful Jewish study in Hebrew, English and Russian to communities in Israel and throughout the world. Scores of lectures, lecture series and panel discussions took place, enriching the lives of thousands and connecting them to the Schechter study community.

- “Zoom Into” Pre-Holiday Learning for the High Holidays, Hanukkah, Tu B'Shvat, Purim, Passover and Shavuot, with four lectures and 80-200 participants each time
- International Reading of The Holocaust Scroll on Yom Hashoah in four languages with 200 participants worldwide, co-sponsored by Rabbi Philip Scheim, Beth David Synagogue, Toronto; the Rabbinical Assembly; Masorti Olami and Seminario Rabinico, April 2021
- ScholarStream lectures to Conservative communities worldwide, with Profs. David Golinkin and Doron Bar, Rabbi Dr. Reb Mimi Feigelson and Rabbi Chaya Rowen Baker, April-May 2021
- Torah Fund Study Day, Women's League for Conservative Judaism, special appearance by Rabbi Dr. Reb Mimi Feigelson, January 2021

Board Meetings

- The Schechter Institutes, Inc. Board of Trustees, under the leadership of Chair Saul Sanders, met in November 2020 and May 2021. The Board heard reports from Romina Reisin, Director of Neve Schechter and Prof. Doron Bar, President of the SIJS Graduate School on the achievements and challenges presented to their programs during the Covid-19 crisis.
- The Schechter Institute Graduate School's Board of Trustees, led by Chair Saul Sanders and by Executive Committee Chair Jonathan Steinberg, met in December 2020, May 2021 and August 2021. In August, Prof. Doron Bar reported on the positive results of the Graduate School evaluation conducted by Dr. Liora Pascal for the William Davidson Foundation (see page 13).
- The Schechter Rabbinical Seminary Board of Governors, under the leadership of Board Chair Ilana Laderman Mushkin, met in January, March and May 2021, where Dean Rabbi Avi Novis-Deutsch reported on new Mishlei Fellowships.
- The TALI Education Fund Board, chaired by Roni Yannay, met in January and August 2021. At the January meeting, Dr. Peri Sinclair, Susan and Scott Shay TALI Director General reported on the excellent results of the TALI evaluation conducted by the William Davidson Foundation.
- The Midreshet Schechter Board, led by Rabbi Prof. David Golinkin met in January and July 2021. Neve Schechter Director Romina Reisin reported on the establishment of a Steering Committee for Neve Schechter while Rabbi Irina Gritsevskaia reported on the purchase of the new synagogue complex in Kiev, (see pages 8 and 22).

Zooming with the President

Prof. David Golinkin gave more than 40 online lectures in 2020-21, reaching thousands of viewers in Israel and around the world in English and Hebrew, with timely topics such as “Does Jewish Law Require Vaccinations?” Highlights include: 2nd International Reading of Megillat Hashoah in four languages and the Holiday “Zooming Into...” Series Overseas Zoom lectures for Beth David Congregation, Toronto, Rabbi Philip Scheim; Sinai Temple, Los Angeles, CA, Rabbi David Wolpe; Vancouver Jewish Federation; Beth El Synagogue, St. Louis Park, MN, Rabbi Alexander Davis; Virtual Scholar-in-Residence: Temple Beth Hillel-Beth El, Wynnewood, PA, Rabbi Neil Cooper; Beth David Congregation, Miami, FL, Rabbi Julie Jacobs. And for the first time in over a year, a “Live” lecture at Beth Shalom Synagogue, Columbia, SC, Rabbi Jonathan Case. In Buenos Aires, Argentina, a podcast with Rabbi Uriel Romano, Seminario Rabinico, with thousands of viewers. The Conservative World: Women's League Torah Fund, Tu B'Shvat; RA Convention, two Zoom lectures; RA ScholarStream, two lectures; RA High Holiday Seminar. In Israel: Women's Study Days, February and June. International Conference on Prof. Israel Friedlaender z”l; interview on Israel Army Radio on “Jewish Law and Vaccinations.”

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SRS Faculty

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(in \$US) January 1, 2021 – December 31, 2021

Income

1. Schechter Institute of Jewish Studies Graduate School

Federations and Foundations	780,063
Contributions	1,207,585
Tuition and Fees	1,219,375
Endowment Income	330,938
Book Sales, Rental Income, Miscellaneous	161,307
Sub-Total	3,699,267

Expenses

Faculty Salaries	1,321,333
M.A. Student Tuition Scholarships	297,813
Library, Academic Research, Publishing	328,292
Other Educational/Academic Projects	259,156
Student Recruitment/Marketing	232,948
Administration and Campus Maintenance	676,288
Development and PR	583,438
Sub-Total	3,699,267

2. TALI Education Fund

Jewish Agency	287,000
Foundations and Federations	699,100
Contributions	833,160
Israeli Government	195,344
Fees for Sales, Services	334,813
Interest and Miscellaneous	23,188
Sub-Total	2,372,604

Educational Resources/Curriculum Development	274,797
Pedagogic Counseling	386,197
Informal Activities and School Resources	402,460
Halleli and Professional Development	276,467
Early Childhood Department	53,250
High School Projects	192,313
Special Projects and New Media	245,241
Network Expansion, Supervision and Evaluation	193,348
Administration	348,531
Sub-Total	2,372,604

3. Schechter Rabbinical Seminary

Jewish Agency, KKL, Israeli Govt.	91,375
Contributions	245,656
Earmarked Gifts and Grants	396,563
Tuition and Fees	245,625
Interest and Miscellaneous	23,031
Sub-Total	1,002,250

Faculty Salaries	433,750
Student Stipends and Internships	223,156
Ashira Music Programs	104,844
Torah Lishma and New Media Projects	101,250
Administration	139,250
Sub-Total	1,002,250

4. Midreshet Schechter – Israel

Jewish Agency	23,000
Foundations and Federations	209,375
Israeli Government/Municipalities	173,680
Contributions	119,531
Rental, Participation Fees, Miscellaneous	146,250
Sub-Total	671,836

Schechter Centers – Adult Education Courses	153,117
Neve Schechter Programming	292,227
Neve Schechter Maintenance and Operations	133,619
Administration	92,873
Sub-Total	671,836

5. Midreshet Yerushalayim – Ukraine

Federations and Jewish Agency	55,609
Foundations	107,272
Contributions	233,531
Masorti Olami	98,125
Sub-Total	494,538
TOTAL	8,240,494

Educator Training – Courses, Seminars	77,200
Ramah and NOAM – Camps and Youth Activities	116,500
Rabbi/Shaliach Salary and Housing	85,400
Kiev Center Rent and Expenses	63,500
Direct Support for Other Communities	60,200
Administration	91,738
Sub-Total	494,538
TOTAL	8,240,494



The Schechter Institutes, Inc.
שוחרי עמותות שכטר

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Tel Aviv Campus

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