The Schechter Institutes, Inc.
מכון שכטר למדעי היהדות

Annual Report 2015–2016

Jewish Values
Working for Israel

The Schechter Institutes, Inc. is a not for profit (501-c-3) organization dedicated to the advancement of pluralistic Jewish education. The Schechter Institutes, Inc. provides support to four non-profit organizations based in Jerusalem, Israel and forms an educational umbrella that includes:

- **Schechter Institute of Jewish Studies**, the largest M.A. program in Jewish Studies in Israel with 600 Israeli students and more than 1500 graduates.
- **Schechter Rabbinical Seminary** is the international rabbinical school of Conservative Judaism, serving Israel, Europe and the Americas.
- **TALI Education Fund** offers a pluralistic Jewish studies program to 47,000 children in 325 Israeli secular public schools and kindergartens.
- **Midreshet Yerushalayim** provides Jewish education to Jewish communities throughout Ukraine.
- **Midreshet Schechter** offers adult Jewish education Bet Midrash frameworks throughout Israel.
- **Neve Schechter-Legacy Heritage Center for Jewish Culture** in Neve Zedek draws 15,000 Tel Avivans every year to services, classes, events and art exhibits.

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Cover: Bat ella Birnbaum, TALI Music Director, together with a choir comprised of a number of TALI schools, salutes the 40th anniversary of the TALI Education Fund, Caesarea Amphitheater, September 12, 2016.

Jewish Values Working for Israel:
The Schechter Institutes

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LETTER FROM **THE CHAIR**

Dear Friends,

This past year was one of significant change and transition for Schechter, as we welcomed new leadership at the Schechter Institute of Jewish Studies and the Schechter Rabbinical Seminary.

In October, The Council for Higher Education in Israel approved the appointment of Prof. Doron Bar, a member of Schechter's faculty, as the new President of the Schechter Institute of Jewish Studies. As one of his first initiatives, President Bar is leading a strategic review which is already bringing changes to the study tracks we offer, to recruitment, to online teaching, and to increased cooperation with other arms of Schechter. Concurrent with this appointment, Rabbi Professor David Golinkin has taken on his new role as President of The Schechter Institutes, Inc. which oversees all four of our non-profits (Schechter Institute of Jewish Studies, TALI Education Fund, Schechter Rabbinical Seminary and Midreshet Schechter). In addition to taking on this new responsibility, David continues to teach and to edit all Schechter publications in the fields of Halakhah and Midrash.

In September 2015, Rabbi Avi Novis-Deutsch assumed his position as the new Dean of the Schechter Rabbinical Seminary. He has initiated a number of new programs, including a series of joint study sessions with students from JTS, the Ziegler School of Rabbinic Studies at the AJU and the Seminario Rabinico in Buenos Aires.

Liat Citron, our Director General in charge of non-academic affairs, is leaving the Schechter family this fall after twenty years. I want to thank Liat for her devoted service and for her attention to managing our finances so that we are on a sound financial footing. Eitan Cooper, our Vice President for Development, will assume his new role as Executive Vice President, and will oversee both administration and fundraising.

There has been significant change in our lay leadership also. Colette Avital, who has served as a member of our Board for many years and as Chair of the Executive Committee for the last five years, has reached the term limit set by the Council for Higher Education and our Bylaws and must rotate off of the Schechter Board.

We have worked closely together over the years and I will miss her many insights and her steady hand in guiding the institution. I wish to thank Colette for all of her efforts and countless hours in service to Schechter. Jonathan Steinberg, Vice Chair of the Executive Committee for the past two years, has been elected to the role of Chair. I want to congratulate Jonathan and I look forward to continuing to work with him going forward.

Additional accomplishments of our Schechter "Family": TALI celebrated a major milestone in 2016 – its 40th birthday. Thousands of TALI teachers, Schechter alumni and honored guests attended the party held at the Roman Amphitheater in Caesarea.

We are proud that TALI is partnering with the Seminario Rabinico and local Jewish day schools in South America to write TALI textbooks in Hebrew, Spanish and Portuguese for their use. This promises to be a major growth area, extending the reach of TALI and its commitment to pluralistic Jewish Education beyond Israel's borders.

As this year of major change draws to a close, I am gratified to observe the dynamism and strength of Schechter. We are a vibrant organization, dedicated to the fulfillment of our mission with a continued commitment to excellence and leadership. It is energizing to witness growth and development resulting from successful transitions. A new cohort of students will soon add their voices to our communal conversations. These are certainly interesting times!

As we greet the new year of 5777, I want to thank you for your continued support of Schechter. I hope that we will have opportunities to engage in the work of Schechter together in the coming year. I wish you good health, happiness and prosperity in the year ahead.

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

LETTER FROM **THE PRESIDENT**

Dear Friends,

We have learned in the tractate of *Bava Metzia* (85b):

"Whenever R. Hanina and R. Hiyya were in dispute, R. Hanina would say to R. Hiyya: 'Would you dispute with me? If, Heaven forbid, the Torah were forgotten in Israel, I would restore it by my *pilpul* (in-depth study, casuistry).' To which R. Hiyya rejoined: 'Would you dispute with me, who achieved that the Torah should not be forgotten in Israel? What did I do? I went and sowed flax, made nets [from the flax], trapped deer… and prepared scrolls [from their skins], upon which I wrote the five books [of Moses]. Then I went to a town [which contained no teachers] and taught the five books to five children, and the six orders [of the Mishnah] to six children. And I bade them: "Until I return, teach each other the Pentateuch and the Mishnah;" and thus I preserved the Torah from being forgotten in Israel' …"

In this Talmudic tale, Rabbi Hanina represents an elitist approach; he can restore the Torah by *pilpul*, by his intellectual prowess. Rabbi Hiyya, on the other hand, believes that the Torah can only be preserved by Jewish education for the masses, by going out and teaching the Torah and the Mishnah to as many Jews as possible; they in turn will teach others lest the Torah be forgotten in Israel. The story continues: "This is what Rabbi [Judah the Prince meant when he] said, 'How great are the works of Hiyya!' Said R. Ishmael son of R. Jose to him, '[Are they] even [greater] than yours?' 'Yes,' he replied, 'And even than my father's' …"

Since the founding of TALI in 1976 and of The Schechter Institutes in 1984, we have followed the path of Rabbi Hiyya. There is a place for Rabbi Hanina's approach – our faculty have published many path-breaking books in Jewish studies – but today, when most of the Jews in Israel and the Diaspora have not received a Jewish education, there is an urgent need for a "Jewish education revolution" which will provide pluralistic Jewish education to as many Jews as possible. Schechter and TALI have been in the forefront of this revolution for 40 years.

The Schechter Institute has provided an M.A. in Jewish studies to over 2,100 M.A. students and graduates, most of whom are educators. This past year we added an M.A. track for Matnass (JCC) workers; and this coming year we are adding a track in Jewish Spirituality. At the same time, Schechter continues to publish at least five new books per year of academic and popular scholarship.

The Schechter Rabbinical Seminary ordained 5 new rabbis in September, while 8 new students – a record number – have just been accepted into the ordination program. The SRS is opening a new program of *Torah Lishmah* (Torah for its Own Sake) for Israeli university students as well as the Liebhaber New Media Project to promote religious pluralism and tolerance via social media.

The TALI school system celebrated its 40th anniversary on September 12th with thousands of TALI teachers and principals at the Caesarea Amphitheater. This year the TALI Education Fund will provide pluralistic Jewish education to over 47,000 children in 325 public schools and pre-schools across Israel. Requested by Diaspora educators, TALI is producing textbooks in Spanish and Portuguese for day schools in Latin America, and *Parashat Shavua* textbooks for North American day schools.

Neve Schechter in Tel Aviv provides prayer services and cultural events for over 15,000 people yearly, and 60-70 Bar/Bat Mitzvah ceremonies for so called "secular" Tel Avivans.

The "Schechter Midrashot" provide 23 weekly adult education courses throughout the Galilee and in the Jerusalem area; 3 branches will be added in 5777.

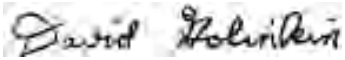
Midreshet Yerushalayim Ukraine provides Kehillot, Hebrew schools, and day schools in Kiev, Chernowitz, Kharkov, Berdichev and Odessa; an annual Teachers' Seminar; and Camp Ramah Ukraine and the Ramah Family Camp - which serve 1,000 children and parents.

Finally, in the area of Development, we have recently raised a large percentage of a two million dollar endowment for TALI and, thanks to a dedicated grant from the William Davidson Foundation, we have hired new fundraisers for TALI and Neve Schechter.

As we celebrate the 40th anniversary of TALI, we at Schechter and TALI pledge to continue to follow in Rabbi Hiyya's footsteps. As the largest provider of pluralistic Jewish education in the State of Israel, we will continue to teach over 64,000 adults and children every year.

With your support, we plan to expand and deepen this "Jewish education revolution" in the years to come.

Thank you and Shanah tovah!



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

TALI CELEBRATES 40!

Schechter and TALI friends and leaders convened in Caesarea and Jerusalem, September 12-15, 2016 to celebrate forty years of TALI Education in Israel and to witness the vital contributions that TALI and the Schechter Institutes are making to advance pluralistic Jewish education in the State of Israel. The 3-day mission was packed with new sights and insights and filled with magical moments to treasure.

1. Mission members are greeted by children of the TALI Oranim School in Yokneam. **2**. Caesarea's Amphitheater is filled to capacity with thousands of TALI educators and other distinguished guests. **3**. Bat ella Birnbaum hosts the TALI Gala. **4**. Minister of Education MK Naftali Bennett is the guest of honor. **5**. Group portrait at Caesarea Port. **6**. Steve and Dedee Lovell with Rabbi Matt Berkowitz at SRS ordination. **7**. Visit to a TALI Yokneam class involved in the Arab-Jewish *Dialogue and Identity* program. **8**. Rabbi Gary Charlestein and Claudio Pincus with schoolchildren from TALI Oranim. **9**. Yokneam mayor Simon Elfassi (third from right) with TALI Principal Yaffa Oknin, David Golinkin, Eitan Chikli, Scott Shay and Sima Nisselbaum.**10**. Cheers! Mary Sanders, Penny Pincus and Dedee Lovell tasting wine with a Conservative Heksher at Shoshana winery. **11**. Judy and Lou Miller enjoying the Dan Caesarea reception. **12**. TALI founders honored at the Gala: Prof. Lee Levine, Barbara Levin and Prof. David Golinkin. **13**. Mary and Saul Sanders with Daniel Birnbaum. **14**. A demographic tour of Jerusalem with educator Marik Shtern (far right). **15**. Prof. David Golinkin delivering his speech at a tribute dinner in his honor. **16**. From left: Dr. Ron and Nina Spiro, Barbara and Ed Zinbarg, Steve and Dedee Lovell. **17**. Scott Shay and Eitan Chikli with TALI Oranim students in Yokneam. **18**. Amb. Colette Avital honors TALI and Schechter leaders: Daniel Birnbaum (for Bat ella Birnbaum), Hannah Schwartz and Moshe Sharashove. **19**. Penny Pincus, Rabbi Alan Iser, Mary and Saul Sanders **20**. Panel discussion with SRS Class of 2016 graduates, led by Dean Rabbi Avi Novis-Deutsch (right). **21**. Penny and Claudio Pincus with Col. (ret.) Roni Yannay. **22**. Backstage, from left: Eitan Cooper, Daniel and Bat ella Birnbaum, Kobi Aflalo, Naftali Bennett, Moshe Sharashove, Rami Kleinstein and Eitan Chikli **23**. Prof. Doron Bar with Hezzy Datner at SRS ordination.

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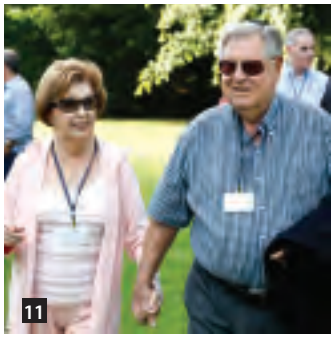
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Jewish Values Working for Israel

The Schechter Institutes

September 12, 2016. A starry night in Caesarea's Roman Amphitheater. There, in the midst of 4,000 TALI principals, teachers, parents, Israeli dignataries and Schechter friends from near and far — the sense of solidarity, power in numbers, achievement, and yes, Jewish Values Working for Israel — was palpable.

No teacher or principal present in that amphitheater stood alone. They all represented a connection to Jewish knowledge and identity that reached out to entire schools, thousands of classrooms and tens of thousands of children and parents.

The exponential effect has always been the key to Schechter's success. This year, TALI education celebrates 40 years as the pioneering leader of pluralistic Jewish education in Israel's secular state school system. Last year, the Schechter Institutes celebrated 30 years of academic excellence and Jewish outreach. Already spanning generations, Schechter education is changing the social, religious and educational landscape of Israel.

Jewish Values Working for Israel. This is the Schechter Mission. This is what we do best. We invite you to read this year's 2015-16 Annual Report and be inspired by those individuals being touched by Schechter. They in turn, are touching thousands of others with what they have acquired at Schechter: a deep and critical knowledge of our Jewish traditions and culture and most important, the Jewish values inherent in our heritage.

Zsafrira (Zafy) Zaidenberg

Graduate of Marpeh Spiritual Care Program; M.A. student in Jewish Education and Contemporary Jewry; Volunteer member, Palliative Care Unit, Wolfson Medical Center

Zafy Zaidenberg, 58, has seen the world, spending almost half her life overseas - in the US, Switzerland, Uruguay and Italy, with her husband and three sons. Those years presented her with a personal odyssey as well as a geographic one. Always interested in study and "the greater search", she looked to her Judaism, though she was secular while growing up in Israel. She took courses while in the US and with a degree in Education, she began teaching in an after-school synagogue program for kids that emphasized the spiritual, guiding them to meaningful expression of their Judaism.

Zafy returned to Israel three years ago, already enrolled in Schechter's Marpeh program, which introduced Chaplaincy to Israel nearly a decade ago. At this year's graduation, she received certification.

The Values that Count

"I love to help people and I want to take spiritual caregiving deeper into Israeli life, past the hospital corridors and into the school curricula."

I've learned from Marpeh to value what really matters in life.

"With the patient, I try to be the most genuine that I can. I encourage them to speak out. To touch. To say what they are feeling. To talk about the beautiful things they've learned throughout life. And most important, to express love."

Paying It Forward

Zafy has been working for the last eight months in a ground-breaking Palliative Care Unit in the emergency room of the Wolfson Medical Center in Holon. A recent hospital bulletin relates: *when medicine can no longer offer relief, what remains is to alleviate physical and emotional suffering. This is 'spiritual caregiving' a role not recognized in this hospital until the arrival of Tzafrira Zaidenberg.* "I help the patient harness his spiritual resources at times of crisis. We are no longer fighting against the disease, but helping the patient come to terms," Zafy explains.

"I've learned from Marpeh to value what really matters in life. In my work, I've developed strategies." A long pause, while Zafy grapples with the right word, reflecting true mindfulness and sensitivity: "Let me share a 'thought', rather than a 'belief' or 'knowledge' — that suffering has a significance that can't be defined."

Rabbi Arie Hasit

SRS Class of 2016; Founding a new Kehillah in Mazkeret Batya

Arie Hasit, 33, has always had a love for Israel and Jewish life. He grew up in Cherry Hill, NJ, in a home strongly identified with Conservative Judaism. Studying Near Eastern Languages and Civilization at Harvard University enabled Arie to immerse himself in Hebrew and to stay connected with Israeli culture. Arie made aliyah in 2005 and soon after, served in the IDF Spokesman's Office.

The divinity of Torah goes hand-in-hand with the holiness residing in each human being

In 2011, he enrolled in Schechter's *Mishlei* program which led him to rabbinic studies. "The combination of Bet Midrash and academics, with a cohort of 11 people who cared deeply about one another and serious Torah study – was an exceptional experience," remembers Arie.

While a student, Arie served as National NOAM rabbi for a community of 2,000 youngsters. This past year, as a Legacy Rabbinic Fellow in Jerusalem's Kehillat Ramot Zion, he gained invaluable rabbinic and community leadership skills.

The Values that Count

"'To love another person is to see the Face of God', wrote Victor Hugo. The divinity of Torah goes hand-in-hand with the holiness residing in each human being. My job as a spiritual leader is to join that person in front of me, at his level, and help him get to where he wants to go, maximizing his potential, with Judaism playing a leading role."

Paying It Forward

With ordination still fresh in his mind, Arie is off to Mazkeret Batya to establish the newest Masorti Kehillah in Israel, with his wife Sara Tova and their 7-month old daughter Ziporah. The town, located near Rehovot and founded in 1883, has seen tremendous growth in the last decade, mostly of young professional families.

"I am constantly meeting people who have yet to be exposed to a Judaism that speaks to them. They are looking for meaning and a connection. They just need the right 'entrance.'" Arie feels certain that Judaism can be that bridge between secular and religious Israel and his new position is opening up limitless opportunities for that Jewish "re-connect."

Rabbi Chaya Rowen Baker

Spiritual leader of Kehillat Ramot Zion, Jerusalem; Member of a Four-Generation TALI Family

Rabbi Chaya Rowen Baker, 39, is a graduate of the TALI Hod Hasharon school. Her husband Etai, studied at the TALI Frankel School, Jerusalem, with their four children - past, present and future students of TALI Frankel, Jerusalem; Chaya's parents, Rachel and Louis Rowen served on the TALI Hod Hasharon school's education committee in its early days; and her grandmother Yocheved, 88, read Megillat Esther for the students at the school.

TALI taught us that the most important value in life is to be a good human being

Rabbi Chaya exudes an 'earth mother' presence of wisdom, solidity and confidence, claiming she is not necessarily a feminist... "just a person with a strong awareness from early on that I could do anything – in all realms." This "sense of self" she credits to the formative years she spent at TALI Hod Hasharon. "I remember the school, first and foremost, as a really fun place. We just celebrated all the time!" she says fondly. "It was also a place that was very empowering. We were taught that we can make a difference and it is incumbent upon all of us to take the initiative."

The Values that Count

"TALI for me was a school of 'life lessons.' Our principal cared deeply about showing kindness toward one another. He taught us to be generous with our assets, especially if we can do so without diminishing them, as a Talmudic principle teaches. TALI taught us that the most important value in life is to be a good human being. A lesson that was reinforced in the texts we learned."

Paying It Forward

The young and dynamic spiritual leader of Kehillat Ramot Zion, Chaya took up her position immediately following ordination from Schechter in 2007. In those nine years she has strengthened a community facing demographic challenges with innovation and initiative, including the establishment of a highly valued community Bet Midrash and growing pre-school network. "When I'm redundant to this community - empowering people to connect, to learn and to identify without a mediator – then I'll know I have succeeded as a rabbi."

...We leave the interview – three generations – and walk the few blocks to the TALI Frankel School – where pluralistic Jewish education began in Israel, 40 years ago. Fittingly the family portrait is taken there.

Adili Liberman

Actress and Performance Artist; Veteran participant in the Artists' Bet Midrash and today its Facilitator

Adili Liberman, nine months pregnant, still moves gracefully in and out of the performance art exhibit – *Chapter Four* - that richly filled the Simha and Sara Lainer Family Bet Midrash in early July 2016. The exhibition was the final fruit of a four-month labor of eight young Israeli artists who grappled with the biblical story of Cain and Abel as students of the Artists' Bet Midrash. Through historic and midrashic texts, drama improvisation and workshops led by experts in philosophy, mythology, drama and psychology - the chapter came alive.

Adili met Rabbi Roberto Arbib, Education Director of Neve Schechter, more than a decade ago when she moved to Tel Aviv in search of acting and creative possibilities. He invited her to join the Artists' Bet Midrash which he has led since its inception. For Adili, who is a descendant of Holocaust survivors and grew up in a secular home, this was eye-opening. "Roberto opened a window into texts I had no previous access to," she explains.

Art is something very positive – bringing people closer to their heritage, Zionism, and religion

The Values That Count

"I can now open a Bible and feel comfortable, realizing its significance as a dramatic text which I can use as a source of inspiration. Just as I learned that Jewish culture is mine to touch, so I am convinced that art is something very positive - bringing people closer to their heritage, Zionism, and religion," she explains.

Paying it Forward

With eight years of experience studying and performing with the Artists' Bet Midrash, Adili has grown both personally and professionally. Most recently, she brought a new production to Neve Schechter: "Girls in Arms," a satire relating to the 1950s and 1960s when Neve Schechter served as a Club House for Israeli soldiers. The tour, one of a number offered in Tel Aviv by Adili and her partner, Nadav Bossem, forges a connection between Neve Schechter and its Jewish/Zionist heritage while addressing conflicts in contemporary Israeli society. "At Neve Schechter, the tour tackles religion's role in the IDF," explains Adili.

Lev Kleiman

Head of Chernowitz Kehillat Aviv, Counselor Camp Ramah–Ukraine

Lev Kleiman must be one of the happiest men in Ukraine, Europe, the world? He recently wed his beloved, Yulia (Miriam) in the venue he had always dreamed of: Camp Ramah-Yahad in the Carpathian Mountains. The beautiful bride converted to Judaism last summer at the Ramah Family Camp. "I really wanted her to be at camp with me so that she can better understand me as a person and as a Jew."

Lev has been connected to Jewish life from an early age. A graduate of the TALI Chernowitz Jewish Day School (1st-11th grade) and a camper and staff member at Camp Ramah-Ukraine since the age of six, Lev now leads the rejuvenated Jewish community in Chernovitz, Ukraine, and brings over twenty of his students to camp each summer. "The essence of who I am today I directly attribute to Midreshet Yerushalayim and the knowledge and love I received from its programs and its director Gila Katz," says Lev.

The Values that Count

"My Judaism is now mine. I possess it," reflects Lev. The Jewish transformation Lev underwent forged his identity and connection with the Jewish people. He is committed to nurturing this spiritual awakening within others. "It is a slow process, but I have patience. When people come to our Kehilla, we'll first sit and eat. We might be doing this for a few months, or even a year. But eventually most ask, 'when can we pray?'" This is the moment that Lev waits for.

Paying It Forward

Lev has led Chernowitz's Kehillat Aviv for two years. In that time, the community has grown substantially. "We now have 30-40 regulars coming for Shabbat and over 150 on the holidays!" As a result, the congregation has taken over a second floor in the same building to accommodate the overflow. "I used to go to synagogue once a year - Yom Kippur. Now I am there all the time. I eat and sleep there!"

...A sweet flashback to August and Camp Ramah. Lev and Miriam consecrate their marriage, officiated by Prof. David Golinkin. Lev breaks the glass and hundreds of campers, staff, volunteers, and visitors shout a hearty "Mazal tov!" Their ceremony marks the tenth Ramah-Ukraine marriage. Proud of being a link in this Ramah tradition, they set their sights on building both a loving Jewish family and vibrant Jewish community.

The essence of who I am today I directly attribute to Midreshet Yerushalayim

THE GRADUATE SCHOOL

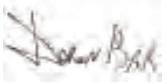
Chair, Board of Trustees: **Saul Sanders** | Chair, Executive Committee: **Colette Avital**
President: **Professor Doron Bar** | Dean: **Dr. Ari Ackerman**
Vice President for Finance and Administration: **Liat Citron**
Vice President for Development: **Eitan Cooper**

News from the President

My first year as President of the Schechter Institute was both intensive and exciting. I was involved with two main subjects: clarifying the vision of the institution and re-shaping its organizational structure. Defining the importance of Schechter's place in Israeli society and the role it is to play is critical. We must continue to be the flagship for pluralistic academic studies in Israel, now more than ever. Only at Schechter, is it possible to delve deeply into Jewish studies in a way that honors and respects the entire spectrum of Israeli society. Such is the beauty of our faculty and our student body.

I am currently working on a book dealing with the Western Wall after the Six Day War. In response to the on-going controversy that surrounds the Wall and the denial of the rights of some to pray there, additional research is needed to bring to light the historical development of this space and the way in which it has been taken over by the Orthodox establishment in Israel. I am also completing a book on the building of Yad Vashem - a process that actually began in 1942.

I am hopeful that the coming year will be one of growth for Schechter, where our contributions will continue to strengthen the intellectual and social wellbeing of the country. I look forward to hosting you here in Jerusalem.



Prof. Doron Bar
President

Numbers 2015–16

- 600 students, including 122 first-year students
- 53 faculty members, 17 full time, 39 external
- 13 interdisciplinary M.A. tracks of Jewish Studies
- 87 graduates in 2016; 1531 graduates since 1992
- 5 books published; 12 conferences and study events

Academic News

Major Appointments

Prof. David Golinkin stepped down as President of the Schechter Institute in Fall 2015, after 15 years of extraordinary leadership. He was appointed President of The Schechter Institutes, Inc. and received the title of President Emeritus of the Schechter Institute. He will continue as Professor of Talmud and Halakhah.

Prof. Doron Bar, Associate Professor of Land of Israel Studies, was appointed President of the Schechter Institute of Jewish Studies. Prior to this position, Bar was Dean of the Graduate School.

A geo-historian, Bar was recently awarded a Harry S. Truman research grant for his work on Muslim Tombs in the State of Israel, 1948-present.

Graduation Ceremony

87 Schechter M.A. degrees were conferred on July 5, 2016 in Jerusalem. Keynote speaker **Daniel Birnbaum,** board member and CEO of SodaStream, encouraged the graduates to commit themselves to making a real impact on Israeli society.

New Academic Initiatives

Maccabi (acronym for Community Leadership in the Jewish Spirit) was launched this year with great success, attracting 15 community activists from around the country. A partnership with the Community Center Association, Maccabi fosters community-based professional leadership through its M.A. in Family and Community Studies.

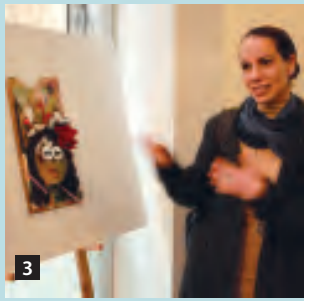
For 2016-17: New M.A. program in Spirituality, headed by **Dr. Mariana Ruah-Midbar,** will combine the study of Kabbalah, Jewish Renewal and Spiritual Education.

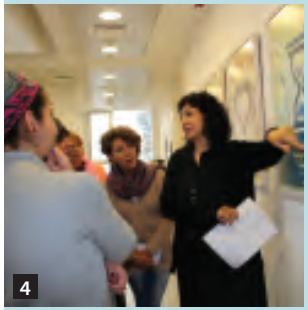
3rd Conference on Judaism and Evolution

Schechter's Center for the Study of Bio-social Perspectives in Judaism is hosting the 3rd International Conference on Judaism and Evolution, Dec. 28-29, 2016. Sponsored by the **Binah Yitzrit Foundation** and organized by **Dr. Paul Shrell-Fox,** the conference will bring questions of evolution and Jewish religious practice to the forefront of Israeli public discourse.

Scholarships & Fellowships

- **William Davidson Scholarships awarded to all 122 first-year students**
- **Judge Simon Rifkind and Harry Meresman Scholarships for Outstanding Scholarship and Commitment to Jewish Pluralism** awarded to 8 exceptional first-year students
- **The Dr. Aubey Rotenberg z"l Memorial Scholarship** awarded to an exceptional student
- **The Mimi and Barry Alperin Jewish Educator Scholarship** awarded for the first time
- **The Prof. Louis Ginsberg Scholarships in Talmud and/or Midrash** awarded for the first time to two students
- **The Larry and Marcia Arem Special Scholarship to Advance Jewish Education in Development Towns** awarded to two students
- **Scholarships for Teachers in Development Towns and Disadvantaged Neighborhoods** awarded to 17 students
- **Jewish Agency for Israel Jewish Renewal Scholarships for Macabbi Community Engagement Program** awarded to 7 students
- **Jewish Agency for Israel Jewish Renewal Scholarships for Community Engagement in Kiryat Yovel neighborhood** awarded to 14 students
- **Prof. Alice Shalvi Scholarships for Outstanding Students in Gender and Judaism and the Arts** awarded to two students
- **The Edythe Griffinger Special Scholarship to Advance Jewish Education in Development Towns** awarded to an exceptional student
- **Binah Yitzrit Foundation Research Scholarships in Judaism from a Bio-social Perspective** awarded to two students
- **Keren Kayemet L'Yisrael Academic Excellence Prize** awarded to two students in Land of Israel Studies
- **Scholarships for M.A. Students in the TALI Leadership Program** awarded to 14 TALI school teachers
- **New Kekst Faculty Fellow, 2015-17: Dr. Ari Ackerman**, Dean, Senior Lecturer in Jewish Thought and Jewish Education





1. Maccabi M.A. class of community activists with lecturer, Dr. Ya'akov Maoz. **2**. Land of Israel Studies field trip to Judean Hills. **3**. Dr. Jo Milgrom's "Handmade Midrash" class Final Exhibit, with student explaining her final project. **4**. Dr. Ronit Steinberg, Judaism and the Arts M.A. lecturer, explaining Schechter artworks to students. **5**. Israel Prize winner and beloved Schechter lecturer, Prof. Andre Hajdu z"l, attends a tribute to Prof. Shmuel Glick (right) who retired from the Schechter faculty. Prof. Hajdu passed away in August 2016. **6**. Schechter Commencement Exercises, July 2016 with graduates of the Land of Israel Studies M.A. program.

SCHECHTER SCHOLARSHIP FOR THE COMMUNITY

New Books 2015–6

Published by the Schechter Institute

Say Something New Each Day, Noah Golinkin (second revised edition) Jerusalem: Schechter Institute, 2016

Kohelet Rabbah, Chapters 1-6, ed. Marc Hirschman; series editor: David Golinkin, Jerusalem: Schechter Institute, 2016 (Hebrew)

Critical Edition of Yerushalmi Kiddushin, Menahem Katz, Jerusalem: co-published with Yad Ben Tzvi, 2015 (Hebrew)

NASHIM, A Journal of Jewish Women's Studies and Gender Issues, academic editor, Renée Levine Melammed, managing editor, Deborah Greniman, a joint publication of the Schechter Institute, Hadassah-Brandeis Institute and Indiana University Press: No. 29: *Women's Torah Study* (Consulting Editor: David Golinkin), Fall 2015 and No. 30: Fall 2016

Published by Schechter Faculty and Graduates

Vision of the Dry Bones – Landscape and Ideology in the Reinterment of Jewish Notables in Israel, 1904-1967, Doron Bar, Berlin: De Gruyter, 2016

Talmud Ha-Igud: Berakhot VI – Chapter Six of Bavli Berakhot with Comprehensive Commentary, Moshe Benovitz, Jerusalem: Society for the Interpretation of the Talmud, 2015 (Hebrew)

Man's Search for God by Abraham Joshua Heschel, Dror Bondi, translation, Tel Aviv: Yediot Ahronot, 2016 (Hebrew)

"The Ineffable Name of God - Man" – A Study of Abraham Joshua Heschel's Poetry, Alexander Even-Chen, Jerusalem: JTS-Schocken Institute, 2016 (Hebrew)

Seride Teshuvot of the Ottoman Empire from the Cairo Genizah, Shmuel Glick, New York and Tel Aviv: JTS and Bar-Ilan University Press, 2016 (Hebrew)

Amalek, Serge Goldman, Jerusalem, 2015 (Hebrew)

Stories in Transformation: Jewish and Christian Perspectives, *eds.* Tamar Kadari (Schechter), Alberdina Houtman (PthU), Marcel Poorthuis (TST), and Vered Tohar (Bar Ilan), Leiden: E.J. Brill (Schechter faculty: Tamar Kadari, Shula Laderman and Paul Mandel), 2016

Art and Online Learning

The Rabbi Henry and Yeta Segal Art Atrium showcased two outstanding exhibits this year. ***Illuminating the Torah,*** by **Avner Moriah**, part of the 2015 Jerusalem Biennale, included 22 pieces of art portraying Biblical scenes and landscapes. The biblical scenes on display and 44 additional depictions from the Torah form the basis of Avner's book ***The Illuminated Torah***, with a commentary by **Dr. Shula Laderman**, published by Schechter and Gefen, October 2015

Revealed and Concealed, an exhibit by **Ruth Kestenbaum Ben Dov**, examines the sacred and the sublime, focusing on questions of faith and doubt. Gallery talks by **Dr. Shula Laderman** and the artist were held for a number of different groups.

Conferences and Lectures

Text and Tradition: Schechter Hosts International Conference *Text and Tradition,* the Fifteenth International Orion Conference, organized by **Dr. Paul Mandel** and others and co-sponsored by University of Vienna and Hebrew University, took place at Schechter and the Hebrew University in April 2016. Speakers included: **Profs. Shamma Friedman, David Golinkin, Moshe Benovitz** and **Drs. Paul Mandel** and **David Frankel**, April 2016

2nd Annual Pirkei Avot Lecture in memory of Dr. Aubey Rotenberg z"l, **Profs. Ruhama Weiss** and **Tzvia Walden**, "Ethics of the Mothers in Dialogue with Ethics of the Fathers", Neve Schechter, September 2016

Evening of Piyutim with **Rabbi David Menahem** and dinner for RA colleagues, July 2016

A lecture with **Rabbi Sharon Brous**, Ikar LA Founding Rabbi, "Re-thinking Synagogue," July 2016

Women Shaping Jerusalem, 17th National Masorti Women's Study Day, honoring **Prof. Alice Shalvi's** 90th birthday, June 2016

Rabbi David Aronson Memorial Study Day, with **Prof. Yehudah Bauer**, "Anti-Semitism in the Past and Today", in conjunction with the Masorti Movement, for SRS, Seminario, JTS and Ziegler rabbinical students, May 2016

Writing Megillat Hashoah, **Prof. Avigdor Shinan**, and Megillat Hashoah Reading, Holocaust Memorial Day, May 2016

The New Fatherhood: Gender Challenges, 10th Conference on the Status of Women in Israeli Society, in memory of **Moshe Shalvi z"l**, March 2016

Three Annual Masorti Regional Women's Study Days, February 2016

In the Footsteps of Lost Treasures, Two-day Conference honoring the 100th Yahrzeit of Solomon Schechter, in memory of **Rabbi Marc and Dr. Henia Liebhaber**, Neve Schechter, December 2015

Ideology in Landscape, Annual Schechter-Keren Kayemet L'Yisrael Jerusalem Conference, in honor of the publication of **Prof. Doron Bar's** latest book, October, 2015

Book launching for The Illuminated Torah, by **Avner Moriah** and **Dr. Shula Laderman**, with lectures by **Dr. Shula Laderman** and **Dr. Noa Hacham**

Research Institutes

The Center for Judaism and the Arts includes the M.A. track in Judaism and the Arts and TALI's Visual Midrash Electronic Archive - www.tali-virtualmidrash.org.il – which includes 850 explicated images of art relating to Biblical subjects.

The Center for Women in Jewish Law has published books and periodicals by and about women in Jewish Law. Visit www.schechter.edu for a list of publications.

The Institute of Applied Halakhah publishes a library of Halakhic literature in Hebrew, English, and Russian for Jews throughout the world. It has to date published 22 popular and scholarly volumes.

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

The Midrash Project is publishing a series of critical editions of Midrashim. Published to date: *Legends of the Jews, Midrash Shmuel, Midrash Hadash al HaTorah, Midrash Esther Rabbah and Kohelet Rabbah, Vol. 1,* with synoptic editions of *Midrash Shmuel, Esther Rabbah, Kohelet Rabbah* and *Shir Hashirim Rabbah* on Schechter websites.

1. 10th Conference on the Status of Women. Schechter faculty, from left: Tamar Kadari, Batsheva Margalit-Stern, Alice Shalvi and Renée Levine Melammed. **2**. Text and Tradition International Conference held at Schechter, April 2016. **3**. Annual Schechter-Keren Kayemet L'Yisrael Jerusalem Conference held at Schechter, October 2015. **4**. A selection of Schechter publications for 2015-16. **5**. Masorti Women's Study Day at Schechter opens with morning prayers, June 2016.

SCHECHTER RABBINICAL SEMINARY

Chair, Board of Trustees: **Ilana Laderman Mushkin**
Chair, Executive Committee: **Rabbi Barry Leff**
Dean: **Rabbi Avi Novis-Deutsch**

News from the Dean

My first year as Dean of the Schechter Rabbinical Seminary presented me with a number of challenges: the need to expand our student base – both for the rabbinical school and for the public at large; the need for a greater new media presence to get the SRS voice and the values we represent out to larger numbers; the need to enrich our programing to meet the demands of contemporary Israeli society and our students.

Although we are only at the beginning of a new path, I feel that we are on the right path.

In Fall 2016, we accepted eight new rabbinical students, a record number. The Mishlei *program hs been modified and a Torah Lishmah project and Liebhaber New Media Project were launched. This year, I was fortunate to have participated in the "Cohesion Laboratory" sponsored by the NY Federation. Part of a group of leaders representing a wide spectrum of Israeli society, we came up with six initiatives to be launched in 2017 with the goal of increasing social cohesion in Israel.*

It has been a year of learning, for my wonderfully qualified and caring faculty, for our dedicated students, and especially for me.

Rabbi Avi Novis-Deutsch
Dean

Numbers 2015–16

61 students learned in the Schechter Rabbinical Seminary: 12 rabbinical students; 18 *Mishlei* students; 13 JTS students; 8 Seminario Rabinico students; and 10 Ta'aleh students.

Largest Ordination Class in Years

Five SRS graduates were ordained in September 2016 at Jerusalem's Kehillat Moreshet Avraham – one of the largest graduating classes in years. The synagogue was filled with family, friends, Masorti leadership and a special delegation of TALI and Schechter friends from overseas. The rabbinic graduates are an impressive lot: **Nathalie Lastreger** is already serving as Rabbi of the Masorti Family Minyan in Kfar Vradim in Israel's north; **Arie Hasit** is forming a new kehillah in Mazkeret Batya (see article, page 8); **Naomi Dar** is a spiritual leader at Kehillat Yedid Nefesh in Modi'in; **Dikla Druckman** will be serving as a TALI rabbi; and **Baruch Greenwald** is working to promote social justice through various professional associations.

Recruitment 2016–17 – Good news!

Recruitment for all programs is much higher than in previous years:

Eight students have enrolled in the Ordination program – a record number – and at least eight students in the *Mishlei* Bet Midrash-M.A. program.

New: A Torah Lishmah program (Torah for its Own Sake) for the general Israeli public opened in Fall 2016. An initial 20-day marketing period garnered over 60 enquiries. 15 students are learning in the program.

New Initiatives 2016–17

- ***Mishlei* Bet Midrash Refines Direction** The modified *Mishlei* study program, a two-year Masorti Bet Midrash, is targeted this year toward young adults. The revised program will place a greater emphasis on skills in Jewish renewal and community action. It will continue to offer in-depth learning of traditional Jewish sources combined with an M.A. degree from Schechter.
- **SRS to Offer Torah Lishmah** Every Wednesday from 8:30 am - 5:30 pm, the Bet Midrash is home to "Torah Lishmah" (study for its own sake). The intensive study of Jewish sources in a Bet Midrash atmosphere based on an open and questioning approach, is designed for Israelis from all religious backgrounds and levels of observance.
- **Liebhaber New Media Project** The "Educating for Tolerance" New Media Project in memory of **Rabbi Marc and Dr. Henia z"l Liebhaber**, will use social network platforms to disseminate Jewish values found in pluralistic Judaism. A "response team" of SRS rabbinic students and graduates will relate to the burning issues affecting contemporary Israeli life by posting original material as well as reacting to topical issues. A media expert will guide the project. The team will also provide position papers on Jewish pluralism to Knesset members in conjunction with the Masorti Movement.

Making News 2015–16

Building Bridges with the Masorti Community This year saw a number of cooperative efforts between SRS and Masorti organizations: **The Annual Rabbi David Aronson Memorial Study** and dinner, organized in conjunction with the Masorti Movement in May, drew participants from all four rabbinical seminaries: SRS, JTS, Ziegler and the Seminario ▪ An **SRS-Rabbinical Assembly dinner** and evening of Piyut for local and overseas RA members took place in July ▪ **Joint project with NOAM** that involved SRS students and faculty in summer camp and year-long activities.

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1. Ordination 2016. From left: Rabbis Baruch Greenwald, Nathalie Lastreger, Naomi Dar, Dikla Druckman and Arie Hasit. **2**. Schechter, JTS, Ziegler and Seminario Rabinico students all attend the annual Rabbi David Aronson Memorial Study and dinner. **3**. SRS Dean, Rabbi Avi Novis-Deutsch speaking at the President's Residence for Tisha B'av gathering of spiritual leaders. **4**. Ramah Seminar participants at Schechter for their annual visit including prayers and lecture. **5**. Ta'aleh continuing education for Masorti rabbis at Schechter with Prof. Shmuel Glick teaching.

"Ta'aleh" Continuing Education for Masorti Rabbis

The *Ta'aleh* continuing education program completed its third year with 16 Masorti rabbis and rabbinical students. The program, run in conjunction with the Rabbinical Assembly of Israel, provided rabbis with practical knowledge on contemporary halakhic issues. This year's courses on Responsa and Talmud were taught by **Rabbi David Golinkin, Prof. Shmuel Glick** and **Rabbi Shmuel Lewis.**

Joint Project with Adraba and Akim for Learning Disabled

In 2016, SRS, Akim and the Adraba Masorti Center conducted a pilot program offering Bet Midrash studies for people with cognitive disabilities. The pilot, led by rabbinical student **Dikla Druckman** was very successful, with plans to open four such programs in 2017.

Legacy Heritage Rabbinic Fellows: Students and Kehillot Gain by Experience

SRS believes that the training of outstanding spiritual leaders must include practical experience in Masorti communities. Over the years, the Legacy Heritage internship program has played a crucial role in realizing this important facet of the curriculum. The following Rabbinic Fellows worked one day a week and one Shabbat a month in their partnered community, bringing new vitality and program ideas: **Yerah Meirsdorf**, Eshel Avraham, Beersheva; **Dikla Druckman**, Masorti Kehillah, Ma'aleh Adumim; **Arie Hasit**, Ramot Zion, Jerusalem; **Raanan Mallek**, Kehillat V'ahavta, Zichron Ya'akov; and **Hannah Pasternak**, Kehillat Magen Avraham, Omer.

TALI EDUCATION FUND

Chair, Board of Trustees: **Col (ret.) Roni Yannay**
Susan and Scott Shay Director General: **Rabbi Dr. Eitan Chikli**

TALI Celebrates 40 Years of Pluralistic Jewish Education

2016 marks the 40th anniversary of TALI education in Israel. What began with the opening of the TALI Frankel School in Jerusalem in September 1976, has flourished into a national network of 325 schools and pre-schools throughout Israel. TALI's "Middle Way" has empowered tens of thousands of parents and children across the nation with pluralistic Jewish knowledge and religious tolerance. (See TALI Gala and Mission, page 4).

TALI Expansion Continues

In Fall 2016, 12 schools and 33 pre-schools joined the TALI Network. This significant growth continues a trend of the last few years, proving that TALI, with a share of over 12% of all elementary schools in the secular public school system, is the program of choice for Jewish studies. The TALI Education Fund (TEF) works with municipalities and the Ministry of Education in creating "Total" TALI towns, like Yokneam and Ma'aleh Adumim. In major urban centers like Modi'in and Holon, with young and growing secular populations, TALI schools are entering the field.

Numbers 2015–16

- 99 schools and 193 pre-schools, totaling 292 TALI frameworks serving 44,000 pupils; including 8 new schools and 29 new pre-schools
- 11 pedagogic counselors worked in all 99 schools with about 2,000 teachers
- 9 pedagogic counselors worked with teachers in 127 pre-schools and kindergartens
- 22 teachers and principals studied in the TALI Leadership Program. Since the program's inception 15 years ago, 265 educators from 85 TALI schools have attended the program, with most going on for an M.A. degree at Schechter
- This year, 16 graduates of the TALI Leadership Program received Schechter M.A. degrees
- TALI Principals' Forum held 5 regional seminars attended by 110 principals and coordinators
- Sales of TALI textbooks generated over $100,000; with all textbooks now digitalized and available online
- 10 TALI rabbis worked in 31 TALI schools
- *Dialogue and Identity* Co-existence Program expanded to 20 schools reaching 600 children, 20 principals and 40 teachers in 10 Arab schools and 10 Jewish schools
- TALI 2-day Bar/Bat Mitzva Seminars at Kibbutz Hanaton with 1,000 pupils from 27 schools
- TALI "Shirat Halev" Music Festivals for choirs, dance and orchestra included 1,800 pupils and staff from 42 schools
- *Niggunim* music workshops for over 3,000 children and parents from 16 schools and pre-schools
- TALI-Leket Tzedakah activities increased 35%, with over 1,200 pupils from 24 schools

Initiatives 2015–16

New Leadership Centers for TALI Principals and Lead Staff The TALI Education Fund plans to open two new programs in 2016 at the Oranim Teacher's College in Israel's north: one for TALI teachers who will receive an M.A. degree from Oranim and a non-academic program for TALI principals. The flagship TALI Leadership Program will continue to operate in Jerusalem where it has served 265 educators during the past 15 years, empowering them with Jewish knowledge to achieve the goals of TALI schools.

1. (opposite page) TALI 40th Anniversary Mission visits TALI Oranim School in Yokneam. **2**. Eitan Chikli, MK Naftali Bennett and Doron Bar with a backdrop of thousands of TALI educators at the TALI 40th Gala Event in Caesarea. **3**. Celebrating Israel's Independence Day at the TALI Achvah School in Ramle. **4**. Dr. Eitan Chikli, Susan and Scott Shay TALI Director General teaching a class of TALI teachers at Schechter. **5**. Annual TALI Dance Festival, Modi'in. **6**. Chavruta (learning in pairs), Nofei Selah TALI School, Ma'aleh Adumim. **7**. Students of the TALI Janusz Korczak School in Kiryat Motzkin greet their Arab friends from the Terra Santa School in Nazareth.

Online Educational Resources

TALI Textbooks Go Digital All TALI textbooks are now available in digital format to TALI and non-TALI schools alike, greatly increasing accessibility of TALI materials to a world-wide market. As part of this initiative, a number of worksheets for family use at home have been developed for 2nd-3rd grades and 4th-6th grades.

Rosh Chodesh Website The newest TALI curriculum, a multi-unit resource for each school-year month and a unit for Rosh Chodesh, highlights a range of sources from Jewish texts to art and literature. The site is intended for TALI teachers and the general public.

Spiritual Education Website A welcome addition to TALI's online presence is the Spiritual Education Laboratory, a wealth of resources including texts, spiritual education terminology, music and film.

New Family Experiential Kits Developed

"Opening the Year" on the High Holidays and Sukkot, launched in Fall 2015, is the first in a series of experiential kits designed for home use. The **"Yom Ha'atzmaut Kit"** for parent-child enrichment was distributed to schools on Independence Day with a **"Hanukkah Game"** ready for this year. Additional materials are available online for this series.

Dialogue and Identity Principals Invited to Swiss Co-Existence Seminar

13 Arab and Jewish principals of TALI's Dialogue and Identity Program participated in a 10-day seminar in Lausanne, Switzerland, hosted by the "Co-existence" Group in July 2016. Against the backdrop of a tense security situation in Israel this year, *Dialogue and Identity* served as a source of stability and optimism for participants. Celebrating its 10th year, the program offers a curriculum that nurtures a cultural identity that is respectful and tolerant of others in 20 schools.

High Demand for Pre-Schools (*Ganim*)

Continued interest in TALI early childhood education by municipalities all over Israel has prompted TEF to develop new curricular materials and teacher training programs to serve the more than 6,000 children in 25 cities and towns. About 50% of TALI *ganim* feed into TALI elementary schools. Where there is no TALI school, the *ganim* act as a catalyst for establishing a TALI presence.

TALI Worldwide

Viva South America! The Seminario Rabinico in Buenos Aires has requested curricular materials in Spanish and Portuguese and pedagogical assistance to establish a TALI Network of Latin American day schools. A Pesach curriculum for four grades was used this past year in 30 schools in Argentina, Brazil and Paraguay. Magazines for pre-school teachers were also translated and sent to schools in Latin America. A Rosh Hashanah curriculum appeared in Fall 2016.

"Slow-Mo" Takes Toronto's Fast Lane An English/easy Hebrew textbook for the Weekly Portion with a mascot turtle named "Slo-Mo"(a play on words with Shlomo), was introduced into two of Toronto's largest day schools. The 2nd grade curriculum was well received and will be used in four more day schools in North America this year.

"Friends Across the Sea" Peoplehood Curriculum Developed and implemented several years ago in a number of communities, including the entire city of Modi'in, the program is now online, developed by TALI for use in overseas twinning. In 2015-16, 13 TALI schools participated, nine of them online with a North American partner school.

NEVE SCHECHTER

LEGACY HERITAGE CENTER FOR JEWISH CULTURE

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

Numbers 2015–16

15,000 people attended lectures, holiday events and exhibits during the year, with an average of 1,500 participants a month, in addition to thousands of worshippers and guests who attended 70 Bar-Bat Mitzva ceremonies in the Atid Sanctuary.

Neve Schechter: A Magnet for Jewish Renewal

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

Making More Meaning of the Holidays

Holiday "happenings" draw Israelis from Tel Aviv and farther afield to celebrate with members of the Masorti Kehillah of Neve Zedek.

- **Shavuot:** 450 participants. All night study dedicated to the "Brit", the Covenant between man and God, community and oneself, June 2016
- **Holocaust Memorial Day**: 300 participants. "Primo Levi: Back to Auschwitz", documentary film/lecture; May 2016
- **Passover for Children:** 120 participants. Creative activities for the family, April 2016
- **Purim Events:** 950 participants. Purim Ball of the 1920s and 1930s, 350 participants; Megillah Reading/ Concert, 350 participants; "Mishloah Manot" Exhibit Opening / Musical Event, 250 participants, March 2016
- **Tu B'shvat:** 115 participants. Seder Tu B'shvat, paper workshop and photography exhibit, January 2016
- **Hanukkah Happening:** 250 participants. Exhibition Opening, "Black and White": Music, Art and Light, December 2016
- **High Holiday Programming:** 1140 participants. Yom Kippur Liturgy, 120 participants; Selihot Liturgy, 150 participants; "Libra Art Exhibit" Opening on the Zodiac Sign for Tishrei, 400 participants; Rosh Hashanah Arts and Crafts Fair, 400 participants; "Siddur, Master of Peace": prayers from Jewish, Christian and Islamic traditions, 70 participants, September 2015

The Atelier Children's Program

The Atelier Children's Center for Culture opened in Winter 2016. Twice a week the Simha and Sara Lainer Family Bet Midrash transforms itself into a "Gymboree Bet Midrash" with story hours and activities that correspond to the Hebrew calendar and holidays. Two TALI early childhood classrooms of the future Liebhaber Center for Jewish Education will provide a full-time educational framework for children of the neighborhood.

Showcasing a Rich History – The Neve Schechter Story

- **In-House Theatre:** Café Lorenz - Templers, Bohemia and S.Y. Agnon, 600 participants, Friday mornings. An inspiring one-hour historical theatre tour of Neve Schechter from 1906 to the present.
- **Just Opened! Girls in Arms**, a new play which forges a connection between Neve Schechter, its heritage and contemporary issues in Israeli life.
- **Houses from Within:** Over 200 people visited Neve Schechter during this event, showcasing Israel's most interesting architectural gems, May 2016.
- **Council for Preservation of Historic Sites** convened seminars at Neve Schechter.

- **A popular German Guidebook** selected Neve Schechter as one of the 50 most interesting Tel Aviv sites.

Jewish and Israeli Art in Focus

Fulfilling its promise to be Tel Aviv's preeminent cultural crossroads for Judaism and the arts, Neve Schechter sponsored a number of contemporary Jewish art exhibits curated by **Shira Friedman,** including:

Agnon at Lorenz, honoring the 50th anniversary of Shmuel Yosef Agnon receiving the Nobel Prize, the exhibit highlighted Agnon and the people associated with him during the time he lived in Neve Zedek and frequented Cafe Lorenz. Exhibit included works by well-known Israeli artist Uri Lifshitz, June 2016

Covenant of Salt, with works by Sigalit Landau and Yotam From; the exhibit tells a story of materialism through the metaphor of salt, June 2016

Purim Balls in Tel Aviv, archive poster and photograph collection detailing the cultural life of Tel Aviv in the 1920s and 1930s inspired by the Bohemian legend Baruch Aggadati, March 2016

Purim Gifts (Mishloach Manot), presented contemporary Israeli works related to two main mitzvot for Purim: the sending gifts of food to one another and gifts to the poor, curated by Shira Friedman and Dov Abramson, March 2016

The "Artist Lab" from a Jewish Perspective

In Neve Schechter's **Morris and Beverly Baker Foundation Art Room**, three young artists in the fields of paper design and the visual arts are working and creating in an environment with a value-added component: Jewish art enrichment courses provided by curator, **Shira Friedman.**

The Masorti Kehillah of Neve Zedek

Neve Schechter houses the Masorti Congregation of Neve Zedek, led by **Rabbi Roberto Arbib**, which embraces families and individuals who seek an inclusive and spiritual community. In the heart of the secular urban landscape, drawing young families has been a major objective of the Kehillah:

- **70 children and their parents held their Bar/Bat Mitzvah in the Atid Sanctuary** of the Masorti Kehillah of Neve Zedek in 2015-16
- **A creative "Storah-Telling" workshop** on the Torah Portion drew 30-40 parents and children twice a month

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1. Artists' Bet Midrash members pose with their mentor, Rabbi Roberto Arbib (front right). **2**. Curator Shira Friedman (right) at "Black/White" Hanukkah exhibit opening, December 2015. **3**. Whirling in the Bet Midrash with Sufi dancers, Solomon Schechter 2-day conference, December 2015. **4**. Purim Megillah reading in Atid Sanctuary, Neve Zedek Masorti Congregation **5**. Resident artist Racheli Shalevi conducts "Illustration-Live" Workshop, Solomon Schechter Conference, December 2015. **6**. Opening event of the "Agnon at Lorenz" exhibit, June 2016.

The Bet Midrash...a Study in Innovation

Chapter 4, Genesis This year's Actors' Bet Midrash, a group of 8 aspiring young actors, led by **Rabbi Roberto Arbib**, hooked into their Judaism by studying the Cain and Abel story, Genesis Chapter 4, from January to June. The study culminated in a number of performance art exhibits that transformed "Chapter Four" and the Bet Midrash into a living and vibrant space of art inspired by Biblical sources (see profile, page 10), July 2016

"Body Midrash" for Children The holidays of Purim and Passover came alive for 45 children enrolled in a 4-part series co-sponsored by the Suzanne Dellal Center for Dance and Theater and Ohad Naharin's Gaga Workshop. March-April, 2016. A second successful **Body Midrash for Adults** was held, November 2015-January 2016

Adult Education Courses Neve Schechter offered an array of popular lecture series and courses in Jewish studies including: *Piyut/Poetic Liturgy; Prophets and Sufi Mysticism; Rosh Hodesh Study for Women; Wine and Judaism; Women's Song and Dance Workshop on Genesis;* and a special six-part series on *Fighting Racism from the Perspective of Jewish Sources,* co-sponsored by Shatil.

MIDRESHET SCHECHTER & MIDRESHET YERUSHALAYIM

Gila Katz, Pedagogic Supervisor, Midreshet Yerushalayim – Ukraine
Rabbi Dubi Haiyoun, Director, Midreshet Schechter - Israel

MIDRESHET YERUSHALAYIM – UKRAINE

1,000 children and adults participated in Midreshet Yerushalayim programs, the only Conservative Jewish educational network in the former Soviet Union.

Attendance and Programming on the Rise

2015-16 was a successful year in terms of programming attendance, especially in Kiev and Chernowitz, under the able direction of Kiev's *Kehillat Masoret* **Rabbi Reuven Stamov** and his wife **Lena,** and a strong group of activists from Chernowitz's *Kehillat Aviv*, led by MY director **Lev Kleiman.**

Ramah–Ukraine Welcomes US Delegation

Camp Ramah-Ukraine, now in its 24th year, has gained a stellar reputation for a total Jewish learning experience in the Camp Ramah tradition. This year's camp was especially meaningful with the arrival of a **North American Ramah delegation of counselors and leadership**, headed by National Ramah Director **Rabbi Mitch Cohen** and Associate Director **Amy Skopp Cooper.** 135 Ukrainian campers were joined by 11 North American junior counselors who worked alongside 25 Ukrainian and Israeli counselors. A highlight of the 10-day camp, supported by the Jewish Agency for Israel, was the Huppah of **Lev and Yulia (Miriam) Kleiman**. Their dream was a Jewish wedding at camp. **Prof. David Golinkin** flew in from Israel to perform the ceremony. (See profile, page 11.)

Ramah Family Camp: Huppah, Conversion, Learning and Bonding

Over 30 families, including eight refugee families from Donetsk – totaling more than 100 parents, children aged 4-15 and grandparents - came together from 8 Ukrainian communities, for the ultimate Ramah experience. The camp, sponsored this summer, among others, by **Sergio Szpolski in memory of Rami Wernik z"l** and **Masorti Olami**, included a conversion ceremony for five MY activists who had studied with **Rabbi Stamov** and a wedding ceremony for two members of Kiev's *Kehillat Masoret*. The six-day camping experience which took place in July exposed the families to Conservative/ Masorti Judaism in a warm and welcoming way, placing a special emphasis on Shabbat programming and "Israel in the Bible and Today".

Kiev's Bright Hanukkah: A New Torah Scroll

Members of *Kehillat Masoret* celebrated the first night of Hanukkah by welcoming a restored Torah scroll donated by **Janet** and **Irwin Tobin, Rabbi Gordon Yaffe** and **Congregation L'dor Vador.**

The more than 100 guests included the president of the Jewish forum of Ukraine and communities from Odessa, Zaporozhe, Rovno and Berdichev. Together with 20 children from the NOAM youth group, the large group lit the first candle of the community menorah.

MY Community Outreach– 2015–16

Kiev's *Kehillat Masoret* and Midreshet Yerushalayim/ Masorti Olami Center for Jewish Education and Culture moved for a second time to larger premises in September 2015. Over 100 people attended High Holiday services and 120 participated in the communal Seder. 23 holiday workshops (double the number planned) drew hundreds of participants throughout the year. Year-long programming offered a full range of lectures, Kabbalot Shabbat, Hebrew classes, early childhood activities, Judaism and the arts and young leadership workshops.

- **Chernowitz Kehillat Aviv Cultural Center** greatly expanded its holiday and Jewish studies program this year, creating an extended community of more than 150 members. 24 holiday workshops and weekly Shabbat programs drew between 40-80 people weekly, with students leading a variety of activities for all ages.
- **Berdichev Community Sunday School** expanded to include "2nd generation" pre-schoolers; children of graduates of the school! More than 35 children aged 3-16, and their parents, meet every Sunday for experiential learning and a hot meal.
- **Odessa, Midreshet Yerushalayim's newest community, now sponsored by the Baltimore Federation,** is comprised of 50 dedicated young adults who come together for Shabbat and holiday services including an annual Pesach Seder. The **Odessa Hebrew Club and Café** offers rich weekly program of study and social events.
- **TALI Family Education Centers** in Kiev, Chernowitz, Berdichev and Kharkov
- **Kharkov Lyceum Day School,** with 120 students (grades 1-10)
- **Teachers' Seminar for 40 teachers and camp counselors** in western Ukraine, June 2016
- **Ramah-Ukraine Family Camp for 30 families** (three generations) July 2016
- **24h Annual Ramah-Ukraine Summer Camp:** 135 teenagers (aged 11-17) from 11 Ukrainian towns, touching thousands of young Ukrainian Jews and their parents over the years with rich camp programming which exposes them to Jewish holidays, Shabbat, Israel, Jewish values.

"There remains today in Ukraine a *pintele yid*, a "Jewish spark" as Jews and those with Jewish blood continue to surface and seek nourishment. The voice of the Hattan and the Kallah resound again in the cities of the Carpathians and the streets of Kiev." - *Rabbi Shlomo Zacharow, Schechter graduate and Masorti Olami representative, who participated in this year's Family Camp (his 9th trip to Ukraine) to perform Conservative Jewish weddings and conversion ceremonies*

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1. (opposite page): Camp Ramah-Ukraine wedding in Carpathian Mountains for Lev and Miriam Kleiman, leaders of the Chernowitz Aviv Kehillah, August 2016. **2**. Prof. David Golinkin officiating at the Ramah-Ukraine wedding of Miriam and Lev Kleiman. **3**. Children of the Berdichev Jewish Community Sunday School. **4**. Chernowitz Aviv community members turn out for a Hannukah celebration. **5**. Members of Kiev's Kehillat Masoret celebrate their new Torah Scroll at Hannukah. **6**. Children of the Kharkov Lyceum Day School get into the spirit of Hannukah. **7**. Havdalah takes on new meaning for the growing Jewish Kehillah in Odessa.

MIDRESHET SCHECHTER – ISRAEL

Midreshet Schechter offers adult education programs in Hebrew, Russian and English to Israelis and immigrants in Masorti congregations and community centers, as well as at the Schechter Institute in Jerusalem.

New Centers Open in Israel's North

Four new centers opened this year in the Jezreel Valley: Jezreel Valley College, Youth Aliyah villages at Hadassah Neurim and Meir Shefaya; and Kibbutz Degania Bet. Masorti Kehillot are home to learning in Haifa (Kehillat Moriah), Karmiel (Kehillat Hakerem) and Ramat Yishai (Kehillat Sukkat Shalom). Additional centers operate in Shlomi, Nazareth, Ma'aleh Adumim and Jerusalem. Courses were taught mainly by Masorti rabbis, with **Rabbi Dubi Haiyoun**, rabbi of Kehillat Moriah, serving as the Director and lead teacher. Over 300 people attended the classes and hundreds more came to one-time events. **Fall 2016:** A new center opened in Or Akiva and a second Bet Midrash (Hebrew) is planned for Ma'aleh Adumim, where a center for Russian-speakers has operated for years.

Goldstein–Golinkin Continuing Education Sponsors Jerusalem English Lectures

A successful Jewish Studies English series was launched in Spring 2015 at Schechter. In Fall 2015 and Spring 2016, the program offered three Jewish studies courses (8 lectures each) in Midrash, Hebrew Literature, Judaism and the Arts, Jewish Women's History and Bible to the general public The Fall 2016 program will be expanded to four courses. Planning an extended stay in Jerusalem this Fall? Study at Schechter!

DEVELOPMENT AND COMMUNICATIONS

Chair, The Schechter Institutes, Inc.: **Saul Sanders** | President, The Schechter Institutes, Inc.: **Rabbi Prof. David Golinkin** | Chair, Israeli Friends of Schechter: **Moshe Sharashove**
Executive Vice President for Development: **Eitan Cooper** | Director of Communications: **Linda Price**
Director of Development, TALI: **Annie Eisen** | Coordinator of Development, Neve Schecher: **Romina Reisen** | North American Representative: **Avrum Lapin**, The Lapin Group, LLC
Director, Israeli Friends of Schechter: **Iris Shvil**

Schechter raised a record $6,480,673 for operating expenses from the period of August 1, 2015 - July 31, 2016. The continued fundraising success enabled Schechter's four Amutot (nonprofits) to sustain and grow numerous academic, educational and outreach activities and initiatives at its main campus in Jerusalem, at Neve Schechter in Tel Aviv, in TALI schools throughout the State of Israel, at Schechter Centers in Northern Israel, and in Ukraine.

The groundbreaking for a second building to complete the Neve Schechter Campus in Tel Aviv was held in June 2015. The naming gift for the **Rabbi Marc and Dr. Henia Liebhaber Center for Jewish Education** was part of the generous bequest of Rabbi Liebhaber z"l who passed away in 2014. As of August 1, 2016, $1,510,000 in commitments toward a total goal of $1.8 million have been made by eleven generous donors, with $1,171,000 of that amount received.

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

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

- **Gil Troy and Linda Adams**, for SIJS in honor of Eitan Cooper's appointment as Executive Vice President
- **Anonymous Israeli Grant** for The Midrash Project of the Schechter Institute
- **The Morris and Beverly Baker Foundation**, for Neve Schechter's Midrash Yotzer (Artists' Bet Midrash) Program

- **Daniel and Bat ella Birnbaum**, for TALI 40th Anniversary Celebration
- **Jewish Agency for Israel**, New support for Camp Ramah Yachad in Ukraine
- **Liebhaber Family Foundation,** Schechter Rabbinical Seminary for a New Media project creating on line materials and discussion for religious tolerance in Israel
- **Steve and Dedee Lovell**, Pilot for TALI secondary school, Yokneam
- **UJA-Federation of Greater New York**, additional support for Marpeh (chaplaincy) to establish a training program for supervisors
- **Abraham and Sonya Rochlin Foundation,** to fund participation in Camp Ramah Yachad and the Ramah Family Camp for children of internally displaced Ukrainian Jews

Endowment Campaign

The Endowment Campaign in honor of the 40th Anniversary of TALI, establishing **the Golinkin TALI Chair in Jewish Education**, and a fund to provide **Study Scholarships for TALI Teachers**, has to date received commitments of $1,300,000 from 15 donors with a goal of $2,000,000 in commitments by spring 2017.

TALI 40th Anniversary Celebrations and Mission

TALI and Schechter leaders and friends from around the world joined a few thousand TALI teachers in Caesarea's famed Roman Amphitheater in a Musical Salute to TALI's 40th Anniversary, its innovative educators and visionary founders on September 12, 2016. The magical evening kicked off a 3-day mission to celebrate the pioneering contribution of the TALI Education Fund to the development of pluralistic Jewish education in Israel, with its over 300 schools and pre-schools transforming the educational landscape of Israel. (pictures on page 4).

Schechter Leadership News

Rabbi Prof. David Golinkin stepped down as President of the Schechter Institute of Jewish Studies in Fall 2015. He was appointed President of the Schechter Institutes Inc. and received the title of President Emeritus of the Schechter Institute. His outstanding leadership and academic contributions for fifteen years at the helm of the Schechter Institute were recognized at a special Tribute Dinner held in September 2016 as part of the TALI 40th Anniversary Celebrations and Schechter Board of Trustees meetings.

Liat Citron, Vice President for Finance and Administration, is stepping down after 21 years of able leadership at Schechter. She steered the institution on a stable course, overseeing the building of two campuses in Jerusalem and Tel Aviv with dedication and professionalism. We wish Liat success in all her future endeavors.

Development Team Enhanced

A greater emphasis on donor relations and development has been set in motion with the creation of two new positions in July 2016. **Annie Eisen,** former Director of International Relations at the Yitzhak Rabin Center, has been appointed Development Director for the TALI Education Fund. **Romina Reisin**, who did an excellent job as Groups and Events Coordinator at Neve Schechter, has become its new Development Coordinator.

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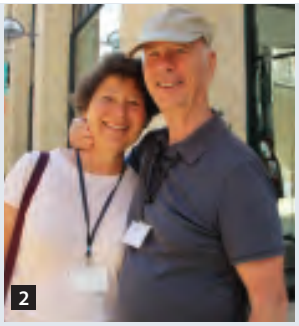
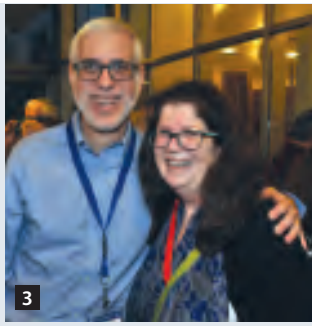
1. (opposite page): Caesarea Amphitheater is full to capacity as thousands of TALI educators and friends from Israel and around the world celebrate TALI's 40th anniversary. TALI reception at the Dan Caesarea Hotel: **2**. Prof. David Golinkin welcomes Scott Shay to TALI 40th. **3**. TALI Honoree Hannah Schwartz and David Schwartz from Ra'anana. **4**. Erez Navon with Dr. Eitan Chikli. **5**. Lynne Galler with Jonathan and Barbara Steinberg. **6**. Daniel Birnbaum with US Ambassador to Israel, Daniel Shapiro.

TALI reception at the Dan Caesarea: **1**. TALI Honorees Daniel Birnbaum (for Bat ella Birnbaum), Hannah Schwartz and Moshe Sharashove **2**. Lynne Galler and Hezzy Datner touring Jerusalem. **3**. Mary and Saul Sanders **4**. Roni Yannay, TALI Board Chair, with Eitan Chikli and Amb. Colette Avital, out-going Schechter Exec. Committee Chair **5**. TALI Frankel Ra'anana Choir performs at the reception.

Board News

The Schechter Institutes, Inc.

New members: Gary Berman, Berman Enterprises, real estate and investment holding company, Bethesda, MD; **Louis Miller**, a longtime SIJS Board of Trustees member, was appointed to the Board of The Schechter Institutes, Inc.

Schechter Institute of Jewish Studies

Amb. Colette Avital Stepping Down

We commend **Amb. Colette Avital** on the invaluable leadership and articulate vision she has provided to the institution for almost two decades; first as an active member of the Board which she joined in 1997 and then as Chair of the Executive Committee, a position she has held since 2011. She will continue as an Honorary Member of the Board. **Jonathan Steinberg**, CEO Natam, commercial real estate and property management, who served as Vice-Chair for two years, assumed the Chairmanship in September 2016. We wish both Amb. Avital and Mr. Steinberg good luck in the years ahead.

New Members: Lisa Blum, Adv., Labor Law, Tel Aviv; **Dr. Zvi Gabbay**, Adv., heads the Capital Markets & Securities Department for the legal firm Barnea & Co., Tel Aviv; **Ran Ronen**, Director, TOAM, kibbutz-owned service provider for Israeli industry, Bet Oren; **David Schwartz**, Corporate Development and Financial Consultant, Ra'anana; **Ya'akov Tzur**, Chairman, Agrexco, Israeli agricultural export company, Modi'in; **Estie Ordan**, Attorney, Mevasseret Zion

Stepping Down: We thank the following board members for their many years of dedicated service to the Schechter Institute: **Robert Rifkind** - USA, who served as Chair of the Board of Trustees from 2000-2010; **Amb. Efraim HaLevy**-Israel; **Ya'akov Kamon**-Israel; **Gershon Kekst**-USA; **Lew Krulwich**-USA; **Lou Miller**- USA. **Robert Rifkind**, **Lew Krulwich** and **Gershon Kekst** will continue serving Schechter on The Schechter Institutes, Inc. Board, and **Lou Miller** was appointed to The Schechter Institutes, Inc. Board in September 2016.

Schechter Rabbinical Seminary

New Members: Ofer David, Financial Management, Kfar Vradim; **Miriam Herschlag**, Times of Israel editor, Jerusalem; **Dr. George Savran**, retired Schechter faculty member, Jerusalem; **Drori Yehoshua**, educator, Jerusalem; **Rabbi Shlomo Zacharov**, educator, Jerusalem

Rabbi Barry Leff is stepping down as Executive Committee Chair. He will continue to serve on the Board of Trustees. We thank the following members who have stepped down from the SRS Board: **Emily Levy Shochat, Rabbi Todd Zeff** and **Robert Rifkind**.

TALI Education Fund

New Members: Hovav Artzi, Lawyer, Modi'in; **Doron Rubin**, Informal Jewish/Zionist Education, Jerusalem

We thank those members who have stepped down from the TALI Board for their service: **Amit Dar** and **Dr. Moti Shalem**.

Midreshet Schechter

New Members: Rabbi Vernon Kurtz, Rabbi, North Suburban Synaoggue Beth El, Highland Park, IL; **JJ Marks**, Attorney, Jerusalem

We thank **Rabbi Tzvi Graetz** who has stepped down, for his service on the Board of Midreshet Schechter.

Board Meetings

The Schechter Institutes, Inc., under the leadership of Chair **Saul Sanders**, met in New York in November 2015 and May 2016. The Schechter Institute of Jewish Studies Board of Trustees, led by **Saul Sanders** and by Executive Committee Chair **Colette Avital** convened in Jerusalem and New York via video conference in December 2015 and in Jerusalem, September 2016. The Schechter Rabbinical Seminary, led by Board Chair **Ilana Laderman Mushkin** and Executive Committee Chair **Rabbi Barry Leff**, conducted board meetings in Jerusalem and New York via videoconference in December 2015 and June 2016, and in Jerusalem, September 2016.

The JTS Connection

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

The Seminario Rabinico Connection

The Israel-Latin American partnership continues to go from strength to strength. This past year seven rabbinical students of the Seminario Rabinico in Beunos Aires studied at Schechter. Over the past two years the TALI Education Fund has been working in partnership with the Seminario to produce educational materials and train teachers, with the goal of building a TALI day school network throughout Latin America.

Webinars Broadcast Torah from Jerusalem

Schechter conducted a number of successful online learning programs this year, including a 3-part Purim series for rabbis taught by **Prof. David Golinkin**, and Fall 2015 and Spring 2016 series for **Kehillat Ma'arav** in Santa Monica, CA whose rabbi, **Michael Gotlieb**, is a Board member of The Schechter Institutes, Inc. The best of Schechter faculty taught more than 60 congregants and those linked in from other locales with six sessions that explored *The Spring Holidays from the Perspective of Midrash and Jewish Law* and *The Struggle for a Pluralistic Jewish Society: Texts in Tension.*

"David, Thank you so much for the countless hours that you put into your responsa which are so meticulously researched and written. Your contribution to the Jewish world is incalculable. I love learning from your writing and look forward to continuing to do so for many years."
Rabbi Todd Zeff

President of The Schechter Institutes, Inc. Public Appearances and Lectures

Prof. David Golinkin served as a scholar-in-residence at numerous Conservative congregations and spoke at various conferences in Israel and abroad in 2015-16. **In North America**: Beth Israel Synagogue, Milwaukee, WI, **Rabbi Jacob Herber** ▪ Temple Israel, Natick, MA, **Rabbi Daniel Liben** ▪ Congregation Sinai, San Jose, CA, **Rabbi Josh Berkenwald** ▪ Shaare Tefila, Olney, MD, **Rabbi Jonah Layman** ▪ Lake Success Jewish Center, Great Neck, NY, **Rabbi Michael Klayman** ▪ RA Convention, NYC, May 2016 ▪ **Lecture in Memory of Jerome and Miriam Katzin z"l**, UC - San Diego, January 2016 ▪ **USCJ Convention**, Chicago, IL, November 2015 **In Israel**: "Women and Torah Study in honor of Alice Shalvi," Women's Study Day, Jerusalem, June 2016 ▪ Tikkun Shavuot:

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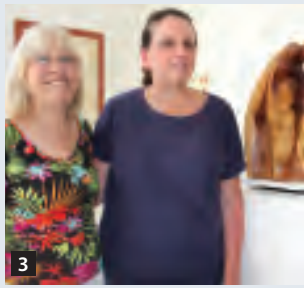
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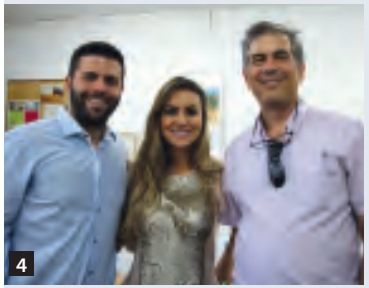
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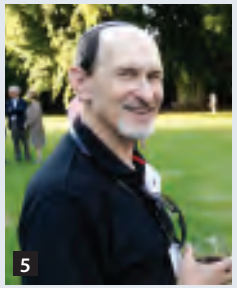
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1. Annual Pirkei Avot Lecture in Memory of Dr. Aubey Rotenberg z"l, Neve Schechter, September 2016 **2**. From left: Darin McKeever, Chief Program & Strategy Officer, William Davidson Foundation and Scott Kaufman, CEO, Jewish Federation of Metropolitan Detroit, visit a Jerusalem TALI school with Prof. David Golinkin. **3**. Reva Gershen Lowy (right), Women's League Israel Affairs Chair, visits the Schechter Institute with Israel liaison Diane Friedgut. **4**. Roni Mauer and his fiancé Daianne Passarin, from Curitiba Brazil, with Eitan Cooper. **5**. David Reifler, MD, Grand Rapids, MI, at the TALI 40th Anniversary reception. **6**. Josh and Beverly Baker with their scholarship recipient, Rabbi Arie Hasit and *Mishlei* student Rachel Rosenfeld.

"The Masorti Approach to Halakhah", Tzavta Tel Aviv; "The Customs of Shavuot," Neve Schechter, Tel Aviv, June 2016 ▪ "The Customs of Shavuot," Webinar, Kehillat Ma'arav, Santa Monica, CA ▪ "On the Biblical Verses Found in the Babylonian Talmud," Intnl. Conference at Schechter: Text and Tradition, April 2016 ▪ 3 Webinars on Purim for Rabbis, March 2016 ▪ "The Masorti Approach to Jewish Law," to 90 pre-army students from Hannaton and NOAM, Schechter, March 2016 ▪ "Kitniyot on Pesach" to 90 rabbis via phone conference, RA-Committee on Jewish Law and Standards, March 2016 ▪ "The Masorti Approach to Halakhah," Gvanim Leadership, San Francisco Federation, Schechter, February 2016 ▪ "The Four Sons," Parashat Shavua Lecture, The Yaacov Herzog Center, Ein Tzurim, January 2016 ▪ "Masorti Approach to Halakhah", Kehillah Masortit Ra'anana Amitai, Rabbi Gustavo Grinzweig, January 2016 ▪ "The Hidden Treasures of Judaism," Schechter Conference, Neve Schechter, December 2015 ▪ Book Launch of "As a Driven Leaf" (Hebrew), Neve Schechter, October 20. **In Ukraine:** Camp Ramah-Ukraine, "The Laws and Customs of Marriage" and "The Conservative Approach to Jewish Law" (Israeli and Ukrainian staff) "Q&A on Halakhah," (North American Ramah counselors,) August 2016

Media Appearances: Israel Radio, Erev Shavuot, "Masorti Approach to Halakhah," June 2016 ▪ Deutsche Radio Kultur, German radio, on IVF with Lissy Kaufmann, January 2016 ▪ Interviews on publication of Hebrew version of "As a Driven Leaf": London-Kirschenbaum TV program and Israel Radio, October 2015

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1. Rabbi Michel Schlesinger visits Schechter with a young leadership mission from his Israelita Paulista Congregation in Sao Paulo. **2**. Prof. Doron Bar guiding an Israeli Friends of Schechter tour of Mt. Herzl. **3**. Midreshet Yerushalayim supporters Juliet Eurich and Louis Thalheimer with Prof. David Golinkin, Eitan Cooper and Gila Katz. **4**. From left: Rabbis Phil Scheim, RA President, David Golinkin, Mercaz Canada Past President, Marian Mayman, President David Sefton and Rabbi Tzvi Graetz; Mercaz Meeting, Toronto.

Bringing the Schechter Name Overseas...

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

Association for Jewish Studies Conference

Schechter was well represented at the Association for Jewish Studies International Conference which took place in Boston, December 2015: **Dr. Ari Ackerman** on "The Relationship Between Law and Philosophy in R. Hasdai Crescas' Halakhic Writings"; **Prof. Renée Levine Melammed** on "S.D. Goitein's "World of Women" Revisited"; **Dr. Etka Liebowitz: "**Similar but Different: A Comparison of Female Monarchal Succession in Hellenistic and Jewish Society in Antiquity". **Prof. Yossi Turner** on "The Interaction of Scholarship and Philosophy in Eliezer Schweid's Thinking on Jewish Culture in Modernity and Post-Modernity."

Dr. Paul Mandel: "The Exegesis of God: John 1:18 in Light of Jewish Traditional Practice," 6th Enoch Seminar Nangeroni Meeting; "John the Jew: Reading the Gospel of John's Christology as a Form of Jewish Messianism," Camaldoli, Italy, June 2016 ▪ "The Formation of the Community Council (*'azat hayahad*) as Portrayed in the *Community Rule* (*Serekh hayahad*)," International Organization for Qumran Studies, Leuven, Belgium, July 2016

Dr. Batsheva Margalit-Stern: "Thick as Comrades? Attempts to Organize the Labor Market in Mandatory Palestine: Yemenite Working Girls as a Case-Study," European Social Science History Conference, Valencia, Spain, April 2016

Prof. Yossi Turner: "Zion, Diaspora and the Problems of Jewish Peoplehood," International Conference on "Wrestling With Peoplehood," sponsored by Mordecai M. Kaplan Center for Jewish Peoplehood, Temple University, McGill University, the National Museum of American Jewish History, University of Pennsylvania and Haverford College, April 2016

Israeli Friends of Schechter

UPDATE: Since January 2015, Schechter has raised over $700,000 for Schechter activities from private donors and foundations in Israel.

The highlight of the year was the TALI 40th Anniversary Celebrations in Caesarea with a cocktail reception whose guests included some of Israel's leaders in finance, business and the arts, as well as U.S. Ambassador **Dan Shapiro**. The event, which took place on September 12, 2016, raised ILS 350,000 and honored Chair of Israeli Friends **Moshe Sharashove**, TALI Raanana parent and leader **Hannah Schwartz** and TALI Music Director **Bat ella Birnbaum**, (see page 4). The Gala evening provided the perfect venue for Schechter leadership from around the world to celebrate TALI's achievements, together under the stars, with the musical talents of **Bat ella** and Israeli musical artists **Rami Kleinstein** and **Kobi Aflalo –** and a surprise musical duet by Minister of Education MK **Naftali Bennett** with singer **Yishai Ribo.**

"Israeli Friends of Schechter" enjoyed three field trips in 2015-16, including:

- **Tour of Mt. Herzl** with Schechter President, **Prof. Doron Bar**, illuminating the history and famous personages buried in this site, based on research from his latest book "Ideology and Landscape", December 2015.
- Visit to Serona, the restored Templer neighborhood in Tel Aviv, guided by **Dr. Avi Lavsky**, followed by a visit to the world-renowned private Judaica collection of **Bill Gross**, at his home in Ramat Aviv, February 2016.
- "From Station to Station in Jerusalem": A guided tour by **Dr. Yair Paz**, Senior Lecturer in Land of Israel Studies. The tour ended in the home of Schechter Friends, **Linda Adams** and **Gil Troy**, and a colorful encounter with the 86 year-old niece of former Prime Minister Menachem Begin, Bruria Ben Senyor Romanov.

1. Reshet Ramah Adult Mission from the U.S, led by Rabbi Mitch Cohen (center back row) are guests of honor at Camp Ramah-Ukraine, with Prof. David Golinkin, Gila Katz and Rabbi Reuven Stamov (right). **2**. 11 North American Ramah counselors joined the local staff to make this year's Ramah-Ukraine special. **3**. Prof. David Golinkin (center) at the Park Avenue Synagogue with Profs. Jonathan and David Steinberg, sons of Prof. Milton Steinberg, author of "As A Driven Leaf," which Golinkin spoke about. **4**. RA dinner at Schechter, July 2016. **5**. UC-SD Jerome and Miriam Katzin Memorial lecture where Prof. David Golinkin addressed the group. Insert: Prof. David Golinkin with Prof. William Propp. **6**. Barry, Dedee and Steve Lovell meet with Prof. David Golinkin, Rabbi Avi Novis-Deutsch and an M.A. student at Schechter. **7**. Janet and Irwin Tobin present a restored Torah Scroll to Rabbi Reuven Stamov and his Kehillat Masoret in Kiev, Schechter Bet Midrash, Jerusalem. **8**. Hitting a high note at Camp Ramah-Ukraine with counselors from Ukraine, Israel and North America coming together for the grand finale.

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Prof. Doron Bar, Dean, Land of Israel Studies
Prof. Moshe Benovitz, Talmud, Jewish Law
Prof. Alexander Even-Chen, Jewish Thought
Dr. David Frankel, Bible
Prof. Shamma Friedman, Talmud
Dr. Galia Glasner-Heled, Contemporary Jewry, Family and Community Studies
Prof. David Golinkin, Talmud, Jewish Law
Dr. Tamar Kadari, Midrash, Judaism and the Arts
Prof. Renée Levine Melammed, Jewish History, Women's Studies and Sephardic Jewry
Dr. Paul Mandel, Midrash
Dr. Bat-Sheva Margalit Stern, Jewish History and Women's Studies
Dr. Yair Paz, Land of Israel Studies
Dr. Einat Ramon, Jewish Thought, Women's Studies
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BUDGET (in $US) January 1-December 31, 2016

INCOME		EXPENSES	
1. Schechter Institute of Jewish Studies Graduate School			
Israeli Gifts + JAFI and KKL	169,100	Faculty Salaries	1,276,500
Foundations and Federations	1,241,500	President's Office, PR and Development*	699,312
Contributions	1,061,300	M.A. Scholarships	206,444
Tuition and Fees	909,600	Library	110,143
Endowment Income	225,436	Academic Centers, Publishing and Outreach	627,547
Book sales and miscellaneous	112,224	Administration and Campus Maintenance*	799,214
Sub-Total	**3,719,160**		**3,719,160**

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

2. TALI Education Fund			
Jewish Agency	375,000	Textbook/Curriculum Development	327,612
Foundations and Federations	1,072,000	Pedagogical Counseling	479,544
Contributions	826,500	Spiritual Education and Experiential Programming	385,886
Israeli Government	289,228	Teacher Workshops and Leadership Training	226,670
Fees for Sales, Services	236,787	Early Childhood Department	324,118
		Special Projects	394,744
		TALI Network Expansion	241,160
		Administration	419,781
Sub-Total	**2,799,515**		**2,799,515**

INCOME		EXPENSES	
3. Schechter Rabbinical Seminary			
Jewish Agency	62,500	Faculty Salaries	250,732
Foundations and Federations	139,053	Scholarship Stipends	96,614
Contributions	288,800	Special Programs and Student Activities	117,100
Tuition and Fees	78,626	Administration	104,533
Sub-Total	**568,979**		**568,979**
4. Midreshet Schechter – Israel (Includes Neve Schechter)			
Jewish Agency	42,300	Schechter Centers - Courses in North	127,665
Foundations and Federations	322,000	Neve Schechter Programming	397,022
Israeli Government/ Municipalities	47,231	Neve Schechter Maintenance and Operations	152,326
Contributions	197,434	Administration	53,770
Participation and Rental Fees	121,818		
Sub-Total	**730,783**		**730,783**
5. Midreshet Yerushalayim – Ukraine			
Federations and JAFI	51,800	Teacher Training, Seminars, Workshops	41,700
Foundations	135,400	Camp Ramah - Summer and Family Camps	119,200
Contributions	169,300	Rabbi/Shaliach Salary, Housing	91,400
Masorti Olami	82,200	Kiev Center	87,500
		Chernowitz and Odessa Communities	34,500
		Administration	64,400
Sub-Total	**438,700**		**438,700**
TOTAL	**8,257,137**		**8,257,137**

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