

The Graduate School

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Numbers 2010-11

- ⦿ 613 students
- ⦿ 65 faculty members
- ⦿ 14 interdisciplinary M.A. tracks of Jewish Studies
- ⦿ 107 graduates in 2011; 1102 total since 1990
- ⦿ 7 books published
- ⦿ 12 conferences sponsored or co-sponsored

Academic News

Largest Jewish Studies Program Schechter attracts more students to its M.A. degree program in Jewish Studies than any other institution in Israel. The program is respected nationwide, with students coming from over 150 Israeli cities and towns.

New Specialization in Health-Care Chaplaincy

In 2011-12, Schechter will offer a program combining certification in CPE (Clinical Pastoral Education) with an M.A. degree from the Family and Community Studies track. Developed by **Dr. Einat Ramon**, this program is the first of its kind in Israel to offer CPE certification with an advanced academic degree. The program's objective is to further develop the nascent field of pastoral care and hospital chaplaincy in Israel.

Commencement Exercises 2011 - Largest ever

M.A. degrees were conferred on 107 graduates in Jerusalem on May 24, 2011, the largest graduating class in Schechter history. Other milestones include the first awarding of the **Dean's Prize for Outstanding Seminar Papers** and first-time recognition of **Summa Cum Laude Graduates**.

Handmade Midrash staged an impressive art exhibit at Schechter in January 2011. Eight students, together with their mentor and teacher, **Dr. Jo Milgrom**, studied and created works that visually depicted their personal dialogue with Biblical sources.

The 14th Marc and Henia z"l Liebhaber Prize for Religious Tolerance in Israel was awarded to celebrated Israeli entertainer

Yehoram Gaon and to **Rabbi Prof. Naftali Rothenberg**, senior fellow at the Van Leer Institute, for their contribution to bringing Israelis together through music and dialogue. **Rabbi Liebhaber** sponsored full page ads, signed by the Liebhaber laureates that appealed to Israelis to practice religious tolerance.

Scholarship News

William Davidson Scholarships were awarded to all first-year students. The **Judge Simon Rifkind and Harry Meresman Scholarships for Outstanding Scholarship and Commitment to Jewish Pluralism**, now in its 7th year, were awarded to 13 exceptional students; the **Prof. Alice Shalvi Scholarships for Outstanding Students in Gender and Judaism and the Arts** were awarded to two worthy students and the **Grinspoon Scholarships for M.A. Students in the TALI Leadership Program** were awarded to eight outstanding TALI school teachers. **Scholarships for teachers in Development Towns** and underprivileged neighborhoods were awarded to 38 students. The first **Iranian American Jewish Federation Scholarship Award** was given to an exceptional student studying in the M.A. track devoted to Sephardic Studies and Jews of Islamic Countries.

Library Acquisitions From the libraries of **Prof. Moshe Greenberg z"l**, 1000 books, donated by his wife, **Hava**; **Dr. Ora Lifshitz**, 20,000 volumes on the Bible and the Ancient Near East with computerized index of 142,000 entries; **Prof. Yosef Salmon**, 1000 books; **Shlomo Barer z"l**, 1000 books, donated by his daughter, **Naomi Keren**, a Schechter M.A. student; journal collection from **Camp Ramah library**.

Alumni News

Shirat Haruach - the first alumni Shabbat retreat took place in January 2011 in Ashkelon with support from the **Goldstein-Golinkin Lecture Fund**; Two issues of the Alumni newsletter *B'keshet I'Schechter*, were published this year.

Faculty News

Kekst Faculty Fellowship The new Kekst Fellow for 2011-13 is **Prof. Renée Levine Melammed**, Dean and Associate Prof. of Jewish History, Academic Editor of *Nashim*, and a leading scholar in the history of Sephardic Jewry and Jewish women's studies.

Promotions **Prof. Moshe Benovitz**, promoted to Full Professor in Talmud; **Dr. Doron Bar**, appointed Senior Lecturer in Land of Israel Studies; **Dr. David Frankel**, promoted to Senior Lecturer in Bible.

Faculty Feted

Prof. Renée Levine Melammed received a grant from the prestigious Israel Science Foundation for research on "Jewish Women in Mediterranean Society;" **Prof. Shamma Friedman** received the *Mifal Hapayis* Foundation's Landau Prize for Science and Research in the field of talmud and rabbinic literature; **Prof. Guy Miron's** *The Encyclopedia of the Ghettos*, which he edited for Yad Vashem, was a finalist for the 2010 National Jewish Book Awards and a Booklist Editors' Choice for Reference Sources.

Looking Ahead

The first international conference on *Judaism in Evolutionary Perspective*, will be hosted by Schechter on November 17, 2011. Organized by **Dr. Paul Shrell-Fox**, the conference will showcase top scholars in the field, including **Prof. Mel Konner** (Medicine and Anthropology), Emory University, and **Prof. Ada Lampert** (Evolutionary Psychology), Ruppin Institute.



1. Dr. Jo Milgrom with students of her *Handmade Midrash* class 2. Enjoying a Schechter lecture 3. Studying in the Schechter library 4. Ruth Regev-Herbst, Class of 2011 valedictorian 5. "Between classes" at Schechter. 6. Liebhaber Prize Ceremony. From left: Prof. Naftali Rothenberg, Rabbi Marc Liebhaber, Yehoram Gaon, Prof. David Golinkin 7. Dr. Yair Paz (left) with students from the Land of Israel M.A. program 8. Prof. Guy Miron, lecturing on his "Encyclopedia of the Ghettos" 9. Prof. Renée Levine Melammed is Kekst Fellow for 2011-13 10. *Jewish and Christian Perspectives* Conference held at Schechter, January 2011 11. Rabbi Marc Liebhaber addressing the 14th Annual Liebhaber Prize for Religious Tolerance in Israel 12. Dr. Tamar Kadari, Head of the Judaism and the Arts M.A. program 13. Graduates of the Women's and Jewish Studies M.A. program 14. JNF scholarships awarded to students of merit by board member Yehiel Leket (second from left), Dr. Doron Bar (far left) and Dr. Yair Paz (far right)

A Ministry of Education sponsored Certification Course in "Jewish Culture and Tradition" will bring teachers to Schechter and prepare them to teach the new *Tarbut Yisrael* public school curriculum. The course will be conducted jointly with the TALI Educational Leadership Program, and teachers who enroll in the program can opt to continue on to complete the Schechter M.A. degree. *Tarbut Yisrael* is a nationwide program to instill Jewish and Zionist values into Israel's secular public school system. The Ministry of Education has turned to Schechter and the TALI Education Fund for teacher training and textbook production. (See page 14.)

The Center for Jewish Peoplehood Education (CJPE), founded by a group of four veteran Jewish-Zionist educators, including TALI board member **Varda Rafaeli**, has been relocated to the Schechter Institute. The Center's objective is to serve as a catalyst for research, resource development and practical programming in the field. The Center is exploring the establishment of an academic track in Peoplehood Education and professional training programs for Jewish educators in Israel and abroad.

Research Institutes

The Center for Judaism and the Arts was established in 2001 for the enrichment of educational and cultural life in Israel and includes the M.A. track in Judaism and the Arts and TALI's Visual Midrash Electronic Archive, which has received overwhelmingly positive feedback from educators and students around the world.

The Center for Women in Jewish Law was established in 1999 in order to enable women rabbis to research, publish and educate the public on the rights of women from the perspective of Jewish Law. Its publications include *The Status of Women in Jewish Law*; *Jewish Law Watch*; *Za'akat Dalot (The Cry of the Wretched): Halakhic Solutions for the Agunot of our Time*; *To Learn and To Teach*; and *Ask the Rabbi*, a collection of responsa culled from the *Ask the Rabbi* website.

The Institute of Applied Halakhah was founded in 1997 in order to publish a library of Halakhic literature in Hebrew, English, and Russian for Jews throughout the world. It has to date published 25 volumes of scholarly research.

Ruth Drori Binder, 49, Coordinator for TALI co-existence program, *Dialogue and Identity*



"The 'great divide' between socialism and Judaism is artificial. Judaism can also deal with a just society. Jewish culture and Israeli culture are bound to come together."

Ruth Drori Binder has spent the vast majority of her life in Israel's north. She grew up on Israel's northern border Kibbutz Dan where "I lived most of my childhood in the bomb shelter." Ruth was raised on the ideologies of HaShomer Hatzair (the Young Guard Movement) of Israel's far left that clearly left no room for religion. She today lives in the rural village of Alon Hagalil with her husband and three children.

As a young adult, Ruth identified with radical socialism. She studied philosophy and history at Oranim, a college near Haifa. It was also at Oranim that Ruth met three lecturers – the first graduates of Schechter's M.A. program in Jewish Studies – who had just established *Hamidrasha*: Educational Center for the Renewal of Jewish Life in Israel. "For me, Judaism had always been a luxury that we could return to, AFTER we fed the hungry. At *Hamidrasha*, I saw that Judaism can also deal with a just society. The 'great divide' between socialism and Judaism is artificial. Jewish culture and Israeli culture are bound to come together," Ruth explains.

Armed with a new ideology, Ruth helped found *Nigun Halev* (*Melody of the Heart*), a Jewish secular community that meets in the Jezreel Valley's Moshav Nahalal, long synonymous with secular Israel. Today the moshav draws between 100-130 fellow members every Friday for Kabbalat Shabbat.

Ruth, a graduate of the Schechter M.A. program (Class of 2011), shares her "Schechter knowledge" generously. Most recently, with the help of Schechter lecturer, Dr. George Savran, she wrote a 10-part course on *The Song of Songs*, which she taught to fellow members of *Nigun Halev*.

"At Schechter, what started as a 'time-out' for my own personal growth, evolved into the ideal situation of 'helping others,'" muses Ruth. "This only reaffirms for me the crucial interface that needs to exist between Judaism, our personal lives and Israeli society at large."

Ruth is today regional director of *Dialogue and Identity*, a TALI program founded five years ago to encourage religious self awareness as well as mutual respect between TALI school children and their Arab counterparts in the north. She also sends her two youngest children to the nearby TALI school in Givat Ela.

Dov Abramson, 36, artist and graphic designer



"Bezalel offered no Jewish study, and in yeshiva, Jewish art was taboo. Schechter placed me squarely on the seam between these two worlds."

Dov Abramson, a Jerusalem artist, has taken on the tensions inherent in religious life and brought them center stage. Born in the U.S., he moved with his modern Orthodox family (his father is a Yeshiva University-ordained rabbi) to Israel when he was 8-years old. His pre-occupation with the boundaries of *Kodesh V'Hol* (the sacred and the profane) is evident in his art. Dov has exhibited both in Israel and in the U.S. including the Israel Museum in Jerusalem and the Jewish Museum in New York.

"I grew up in an environment which was 'theoretically liberal'-meaning, that you can ask questions, but the bottom line is that observance of Halakha is not on the negotiating table," explains Dov. He graduated from a well-respected Jerusalem yeshiva but veered off the conventional path by entering the army in a non-religious framework. He went on to study art at Jerusalem's Bezalel Academy where his final project was re-designing a page of Talmud.

"We are a text-driven nation, in love with our texts. What I do is re-think the visual dimension so it too can have a voice in a modern Jewish cultural exchange," says Dov.

"My first paying job was for the TALl Education Fund, designing the Weekly Torah portion pages and then contributing content as well." Working for TALl for 10 years, Dov became familiar with Schechter's degree program. Last year, he found time to enroll in its Judaism and the Arts M.A. track. "From the first moment, Schechter was exactly what I was looking for...the bridge between my yeshiva studies and Bezalel."

Dov lives and breathes religious pluralism, using his art to force dialogue on the most salient issues confronting Israeli society today. His clients range from a Reform synagogue in Tel Aviv to an Orthodox yeshiva in the Etzion bloc.

"In pieces like *Do We Have a Minyan?*, I put the cards on the table. I am saying to the viewer, 'we have a problem, now, you come and deal with it.'"

Levana Milon, 45, Principal, Mofet Ramot Alon School, Jerusalem



"Schechter taught me the critical approach to learning, where all questions are valid. This is the lesson plan I bring into my school."

Levana Milon is a 4th generation Jerusalemite. Her father served in Israel's pre-state army – the Haganah – fighting for the Jewish state's independence, and later, helping to build modern day Jerusalem. Her grandfather has a public square named for him in the same neighborhood where she is now school principal. She is passionately loyal to the city and tied to it in a very personal way. Yet she is frightened by the capital's changing demography as she watches its young and educated secular population leave the city, while the numbers of ultra-Orthodox increase yearly.

Levana received her degree in teaching mathematics from the Hebrew University. She and three colleagues founded a school in the northern Jerusalem suburb of Pisgat Zeev which stressed a strong program of math to woo the local population, many of whom were Russian immigrants. The school's program was well received, but it was clear that this same population had very weak ties to the Jewish state and to their Jewish identity. The principal turned to the TALl Education Fund to enrich the school with Jewish study. A number of teachers enrolled in the TALl Educational Leadership program (see page 15), including Levana who then opted to continue for her M.A. in Jewish Studies.

"I came to Schechter ignorant and angry. I had many questions about Judaism, but no answers. Schechter taught me the critical approach to learning, where all questions are valid. This is the lesson plan I bring into my school," explains Levana.

Last year Levana was asked to take on the biggest challenge of her teaching career: to head up the last secular school in Jerusalem's Ramot neighborhood - a school with a dwindling population, whose socio-economic background is weak. She has introduced some TALl curriculum with an emphasis on values education and has made a strong connection with the neighborhood Masorti synagogue that included a Purim Megillah reading for the entire school community and a Siddur ceremony for 1st graders. She is committed to continuing the school's open dialogue with Judaism, promising she will give to her pupils "what I never received at home."

The good news? Enrollment in the Mofet Ramot Alon School is up significantly for 2011-12.

Schechter Scholarship for the Community

Conferences and Lectures Sponsored by Schechter

National Women's Study Day, June 2011

Evening of Study in Memory of Prof. Moshe Greenberg, z"l, May 2011

Jerusalem: A City Divided/A City United, 1948-1987, co-sponsored by the Jewish National Fund, May 2011

Literary Cabaret, Study evening in honor of books published by the Schechter Institute and the Leo Baeck Institute, May 2011

The Student Struggle Against the Holocaust, Holocaust Memorial Day Lecture, Prof. David Golinkin, May 2011

28th Annual Study Evening in memory of Prof. Saul Lieberman, with guest lecturer, Prof. Moshe Bar-Asher, President of the Hebrew Language Academy, Schocken Institute, April 2011

Three Regional Women's Study Days, February 2011

The Actuality of Sacrifice: Models of Interaction between Judaism and Christianity in Past and Present, co-sponsored by Bar Ilan University, Tilburg University and Protestant Theological University, The Netherlands, January 2011. The proceedings will be published by E.J. Brill in Leiden.

The Relationship between Torah and Philosophy according to Shmuel David Luzzato (Italian 19th century Bible Commentator and linguist), Dr. Effi Hamiel, January 2011

Sixth International Conference of the Israel Society for Research in Jewish Education, Bar Ilan University, December 2010

Book launching, *From the Secret of Moshe Hadarshan*, by Prof. Hananel Mack, Bar Ilan University, at the Schechter Institute, December 2010

Sanctified Space at the Gur Hasidim Village in Hatzor Haglilit, Shahar Orion, architect, Schechter, December 2010

Annual Rabbi David Aronson Memorial Symposium, two sessions, *Israel-Diaspora Relations Today & Training Rabbis in the 21st Century*, with the participation of Chancellor Arnold Eisen, in conjunction with the 23rd Schechter Rabbinical Ordination, November, 2010

Women in Israeli Cinema, Sixth Annual Academic Conference on the Status of Women in Israeli Society, November 2010

Academic Conference on *The Student Struggle Against the Holocaust*, by Dr. Rafael Medoff and Prof. David Golinkin, UTS and JTS in New York, November 2010; Jerusalem Book Launching, December 2010

Yitzhak Rabin Memorial Ceremony, organized by TALI Educational Leadership and *Mishlei* students, November 2010

Evening of Study in Memory of Prof. Jacob Milgrom z"l, October 2010

And Overseas... Schechter faculty spoke at a number of international conferences:

Prof. Renée Levine Melamed, keynote address, *An Ode to Salonika: Historical and Poetic Perspectives*, European Association of Biblical Studies Annual Meeting, Thessaloniki, Greece, August 2011 and *Reassessing Jewish Women's Lives in Medieval Iberia*, Annual Conference of the Association for Jewish Studies, Boston, December 2010

Dr. Doron Bar, *Re-interment of Notables, Zionist Leaders and Martyrs in the State of Israel, 1917-1977*, 27th Annual Meeting of the Association for Israel Studies, Brandeis University, June 2011

Dr. Paul Mandel, *Apocalypse and Scribe: Enoch, Baruch and Ezra and the Second-Temple "Scribal" Tradition*, Sixth Enoch Seminar, Milan, Italy, June 2011

Prof. Guy Miron, *Between Minority and Majority: Hungarian and Jewish/Israeli Ethical and Cultural Experiences in Recent History*, Budapest, Hungary, May 2011

Dr. Tamar Kadari, *The Three Matriarchs, Jewish Women and Ancient Times*, Shabbaton Bereshit, Sinaia, Rumania, April 2011

Dr. Paul Shrell-Fox, *Judaism: A Biological-Psychological Understanding*, Teaching Religion Conference, Augustana College, Rock Island, IL, April 2011

Rabbi Diana Villa, Interfaith workshop with Muslim and Christian Palestinian Clergy, Antalya, Turkey, January 2011 and Limmud England, *From Regina Jonas, the First Woman Rabbi to Women Rabbis Writing Responsa Today*, December 2010

Outreach

The Goldstein-Golinkin Adult Education Program continues to bring *Torah Lshma* to Masorti communities throughout Israel. This year scholarship focused on the Alumni Shabbat study weekend in Ashkelon, *Shirat Haruach*, with scholars-in-residence, **Profs. Avigdor Shinan, Andre Haidu and Shmuel Glick**, January 2011; **Prof. David Golinkin**, Kehilat Ya'ar Ramot, Jerusalem, *Student Struggles in the U.S. to Save European Jewry from the Holocaust*, May 2011; **Dr. Paul Mandel**, Kehilat Moriah, Haifa, *Loosing the Middle Ground: Different Perspectives from Rabbinic Literature on the Destruction of the Temple*, July 2011

Chinese Educators Visit Schechter A group of 17 Chinese educators from the Chinese Society of Education visited the Schechter Institute. The visit was facilitated by **Dr. Shula Laderman**, lecturer in Schechter's Judaism and the Arts program. Dr. Laderman spoke to the group on *Jewish Education of the Young as Reflected in Illustrated Manuscripts of the Middle Ages*, followed by a "hands-on" presentation by **Prof. David Golinkin** on the meaning and purpose of Judaism's basic ritual objects. An expanded exchange to include short-term Schechter study programs on Judaism and the Jewish People will be explored.

Bat Mitzvah for National Women's Study Day Celebrating its 12th anniversary in Jerusalem, this year's National Women's League Study Day on *Circles, Cycles and Change: Jewish Women Leading the Way*, was taught in four languages to over 400 women, many of them new immigrants. Sponsored by Women's League for Conservative Judaism in cooperation with the Schechter Institute, Masorti Movement, Jewish Federation of Chicago and the Dorot Foundation, and organized by **Diane Friedgut**, the study also takes place each February, drawing hundreds of women to three locations.

The Midrash Project Schechter is publishing a series of critical, user-friendly editions of midrashim which have never appeared in a modern format. Each midrash will include the text utilizing the best manuscript, selected variant readings, *mesoret hamidrash* referring to all rabbinic parallels and a commentary. The 4-Volume *Legends of the Jews and Midrash Shmuel* have appeared, with *Esther Rabbah* to appear in winter 2011.



1-8. New books 9. Delegate from the Chinese educator's mission admires a mezuzah klaf 10. David Golinkin speaking to Ramah Israel Seminar students 11. Conference of Association for Jewish Studies, Boston. From left: Profs. Renée Levine Melammed, Paula Fredriksen and Marsha Rozenblit 12. Jerusalem book launching of *The Student Struggle Against the Holocaust*. From left: Rafael Medoff, Moshe Arens and David Golinkin 13. Alice Shalvi with students at the Masorti Women's Study Day 14. Conference on the Status of Women in Israel 15. Aronson Memorial Symposium with Schechter rabbinical students. 16. Janet Tobin (left) with Women's Study Day organizer, Diane Friedgut 17. Chinese Educators Mission to Schechter learns about the Torah with Prof. Golinkin

New Books 2010-11

Published by the Schechter Institute

A City Reflected Through its Research: Historical-Geographical Studies of Jerusalem, Doron Bar, Kobi Cohen Hattab and Assaf Selzer (eds.), Jerusalem: co-published by Schechter and Magnes Press, 2011 (Hebrew)

Kuntress Ha-Teshuvot He-hadash: A Bibliographic Thesaurus of Responsa Literature published from ca. 1470-2000, Vol. 4, by Shmuel Glick, Jerusalem and Ramat Gan: co-published by

Schechter and the Schocken Institute, 2010 (Hebrew with English summaries)

Ask the Rabbis, Monique Susskind Goldberg and Diana Villa, eds. David Golinkin and Yisrael Warman, Jerusalem: Schechter Institute, 2010

The Student Struggle Against the Holocaust, by Rafael Medoff and David Golinkin, Jerusalem and New York: co-published by Schechter, JTS, the Wyman Institute and Targum Shlishi, 2010

Responsa in a Moment, Volume 2, David Golinkin, Jerusalem: Schechter Institute, 2011

NASHIM, A Journal of Jewish Women's Studies and Gender Issues, academic editor, Prof. Renée Levine Melammed, managing editor, Deborah Greniman, a joint publication of the Schechter Institute, Hadassah-Brandeis Institute and Indiana University Press: No. 20, *Jewish Women and Philanthropy*, consulting editor, Brenda E. Brasher, Fall 2010; No. 21, *Women in the Responsa Literature*, consulting editor: David Golinkin, Spring 2011

Esther Rabbah, eds., Yosef Tabori and Arnon Atzmon, Jerusalem: Schechter Institute, forthcoming, Winter 2011 (Hebrew)

Malki Bakodesh, Vol. 2, by Rabbi Hayyim Hirschenson, ed. David Zohar, Jerusalem: co-published by Schechter and the Hartman Institute, forthcoming, Fall 2011 (Hebrew)

Published by Schechter Faculty

From Sea to Sea: a Trek in Israel – from the Mediterranean to the Sea of Galilee, Doron Bar, editor, Jerusalem: Yad Ben Zvi, 2010 (Hebrew)

The Land of Canaan and the Destiny of Israel: Theologies of Territory in the Hebrew Bible, David Frankel, Winona Lake, IN: Eisenbrauns, 2011

The Waning of Emancipation: Jewish History, Memory and the Rise of Fascism in Germany, France and Hungary, Guy Miron, Jerusalem: Zalman Shazar Center, (Hebrew and English) 2011

Hold On to the Sun, Michal Govrin, New York, NY: Feminist Press, 2010

"He Came upon the Place": Biblical Theophany Narratives, George Savran, Helal Ben Haim Library, HaKibbutz Hameuchad, 2010 (Hebrew)

Books to be Published in 2012

The Status of Women in Jewish Law: Responsa (English version) David Golinkin • *The Hebrew Writings of Prof. A. J. Heschel*, edited by Dror Bondi, co-published with Beit Morasha and Zmora-Bitan-Dvir • *As a Driven Leaf*, Hebrew edition, co-published with Zmora-Bitan-Dvir