

Schechter Rabbinical Seminary



75 Schechter - Ordained Rabbis*

Strengthening Jewish Community Life Since 1988

Israel	Congregational Rabbis	18
	TALI - School Rabbis/Pedagogic Staff	14
	Schechter Faculty	8
	Midreshet Yerushalayim Lecturers	4
	Schechter Researchers	3
	HUC Faculty	4
	Pastoral Care	4
	Jewish Organizations	12
Europe	France, Italy, Germany and Britain	8
Asia	Japan, Hong Kong and Australia	3
Americas	Congregations and Day Schools, 6 in North America, 1 in Brazil	7
Israel	Retired or Working in a Related Field	6

*Rabbis may be working in more than one position



Academic News

New Deans Elected: Rabbi Moshe Silberschein has been elected Dean of the Schechter Rabbinical Seminary and **Rabbi Tamar Elad-Appelbaum**, Associate Dean. The team succeeds **Rabbi Dr. Einat Ramon** who will return to research and teaching at Schechter after a successful four-year term as dean.

Rabbi Silberschein, an expert in Jewish liturgy (siddur and piyut), rabbinic literature and medieval biblical commentaries, is a respected Jewish scholar and veteran faculty member at the Hebrew Union College in Jerusalem. He received ordination from the Jewish Theological Seminary in 1981. **Rabbi Elad-Appelbaum** exemplifies the "new breed" of young Israeli spiritual leaders. Receiving ordination from the Schechter Rabbinical Seminary in 2005, Rabbi Elad-Appelbaum most recently directed the *Makhillim* Program to train Masorti community professionals in Israel.

Fifty Israeli and Overseas Rabbinical Students studied at Schechter in 2008-09. Three new students began rabbinical studies in Fall 2008: **Arnie Ben Dor**, program director and *gabbai* of Kehillat Ya'ar Ramot in Jerusalem;

Hagit Dotan, a graduate of *Tehudah*, one of the most prestigious programs for Jewish leadership in Israel, and a community leader in Modi'in; and **Oshrat Cohen**, a Sorbonne graduate and Jewish educator who worked with the Masorti Adath Shalom Kehilla in Paris before aliyah. An additional two students, from the former Soviet Union and Argentina, began a preparatory year before acceptance to the full program.

Ordination 2008: **Rabbis Yoav Ende** and **Jonathan Sadoff** were ordained at Schechter's 21th Ordination Ceremony held in Jerusalem on December 4th, 2008. Yoav Ende is spiritual leader of Kibbutz Hannatan and director of its educational center and Jonathan Sadoff will serve as Associate Rabbi of Adath Jeshurun in Minneapolis, MN.

Ordination 2009: Six rabbis will be ordained on December 13, 2009 in Jerusalem. Congratulations to **Dubi Haiyun**, Legacy Heritage Fellow and rabbi of Kehillat Moriah, Haifa; **Michal Schwartz**, Legacy Heritage Fellow, working in the TALI schools, chaplaincy and Legacy Learning Communities; **Dr. Rafi Kassimov**, veteran Midreshet Yerushalayim Tel Aviv lecturer with classes of over 100 Russian-speakers; **David Toubul**, rabbi of the Masorti

Kehillah in Nice, France; **Eli Malchi**, coordinator of Jewish identity projects at the Frankel Family Center, Jerusalem and **Arnon Bruckstein**, Kehillat Yedid Nefesh, Modi'in.

2008-09 Program Highlights Legacy Heritage Rabbinic Fellows Program

In its second year, the program, with a major grant from the Legacy Heritage Fund Limited, is developing a new model to stimulate Jewish religious and cultural life in Israel through the establishment of Learning Communities. In cooperation with the Masorti Movement, Schechter is creating a pool of new communities with which to pair Legacy fellows as they take on the challenge of community building.

Legacy Fellows established six Learning Communities in 2008-09 including Messilat Tzion (west of Jerusalem), Matan Horashim (southern Sharon), Nes Tziona (near Rehovot), Kibbutz Beit Hashita (Jezreel Valley), Ma'ale Adumim (near Jerusalem) and Nahariya. Initial work has also begun in the Neve Yosef neighborhood of Haifa. For 2009-2010, negotiations are underway to place Fellows in new communities including Petach Tikvah, Rishon Lezion, Hadera and Ashdod.

Dean Rabbi Dr. Einat Ramon
 Chair of the Board of Trustees Rabbi Prof. Ismar Schorsch
 Chair of the Executive Committee Rabbi Prof. Hanan Alexander



The program provides a fellowship for study and 3-year positions following graduation for twelve committed rabbinical students. A major component is a broadening of professional training for the Fellows, designed to enhance their effectiveness within the communities that they will be developing following ordination. The program offered new courses in Psychological Intervention, seminars on NPO Leadership and Management, a track leading to Teacher Certification, and ongoing supervision in the facilitation and development of Learning Communities.

FOCUS ON: Rabbi Ari Oliszewski, overseas student from the Seminario Rabinico, Buenos Aires, ordained June 2009 in Argentina. He writes:

“Dear Rabbis Golinkin, Ramon and Tucker, ...I have just finished my studies in this home of mine - a home that opened its doors to me. I must thank you for this year of high level studies. A year of friendship. A year of support. A year that actualized my dream: being ordained a rabbi in Jerusalem!”

FOCUS ON: Legacy Jewish Source Study Guides, creative in content and design, are bringing the Jewish holidays and tradition to life for participants of the Learning Communities. Purim, Passover, Shavuot, Israel Independence Day and Tisha B’av-Tu B’av study guides were distributed to all Schechter students and graduates, Masorti Kehillot, Legacy Learning Centers and students participating in the Hebrew University’s teaching certificate program. Guides are geared for independent intergenerational learning within the family or community.

Chaplaincy Program: Three years ago, Schechter pioneered the first accredited chaplaincy program in Israel with Cecil Asekoff, the National Association of Jewish Chaplains, and Rabbi Zahara Davidovich-Farkash, Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital. Today, nine graduates have completed one unit of Clinical Pastoral Education. Six students are working in the Asaf Harofe Hospital Oncology and Dialysis Departments, a senior citizens home, and most recently, a drug rehabilitation center. Students attend an intensive summer chaplaincy program which combines fieldwork with classroom study with Schechter faculty and guest lecturers.



1. Rabbis Jonathan Sadoff and Yoav Ende at ordination 2. Legacy Jewish Source Study Guide 3. Hila Zemer awards Rabbi Dubi Haiyon Pastoral Counseling Certification 4. Reverend John de Velder (right), Director of Pastoral Care, Robert Wood Johnson Hospital, observes chaplaincy class at Schechter 5. Prof. Moshe Benovitz (left) with overseas student 6. Argentinean students invite colleagues to BBQ on Schechter lawn 7. Annual Memorial Service for Matt Eisenfeld z”l and Sarah Duker z”l 8. Rabbis Einat Ramon and David Golinkin (right) speak with children of Ashkelon’s Nezach Yisrael Masorti congregation on a visit to Schechter

“Kehillot Sharot-Singing Communities” Workshop

A workshop featuring liturgists, artists and researchers brought together the traditions of music and prayer from the East and West in four lively sessions for Schechter students, faculty and staff.

Out of Rockets Way. Schechter opened its heart to the children of Israel’s south during the recent war.

Rabbinical students went south to help prepare bomb shelters and distribute toys, and to Haifa and Jerusalem, to take children out of the war zone and into city museums. Schechter also hosted the children of Ashkelon’s Nezach Yisrael Masorti congregation, led by Rabbi Gustavo Suraszky, as part of a day trip to visit Jerusalem sites.

Rabbinical Seminary Bridge-Builders



The Builder

Rabbi Roberto Arbib, 50, rabbi of Tel Aviv's Kehillat Sinai and Midreshet Iyun; TALI rabbi in three Tel Aviv schools; leads an Actors' Bet Midrash; Educational Director of the new Schechter Center for Jewish Culture in Neve Zedek, to be dedicated in May 2010; Schechter Ordination, 1991.

The Blueprint

"There is a revolution happening before our eyes. A longing here in Israel for a new kind of Judaism. In Neve Zedek we will be providing a 'holy place' where prayer, music, drama and dance come together to form the religious experience."

The Bridge

When Roberto Arbib arrived in Tel Aviv in 1991, the city was a religious and cultural desert. There was an outright rejection of religion. But Roberto, always an iconoclast, set down roots, believing that a 'sea change' in Israeli cultural norms would be taking place in Tel Aviv, not Jerusalem. Since those early years, he has built up a vibrant Masorti community and Bet Midrash on trendy Bogroshov St. that caters to an Israeli crowd searching for Jewish roots in a spiritual environment.

Roberto envisions the new Schechter Center for Jewish Culture in Neve Zedek to be a completely Israeli creation. It will not only be a synagogue, but a "cultural-spiritual center of Judaism" in the heart of one of Tel Aviv's most gentrified neighborhoods. "I am finally seeing my dream come to fruition."

The Builder

Michal Schwartz, 39, 2009 Rabbinical Graduate; Legacy Heritage Rabbinic Fellow at the Matan Learning Community; TALI rabbi; chaplaincy work with oncology patients and senior citizens; lives in Petach Tivkah; mother of four.

The Blueprint

"I look back on my Schechter years as a gift. I received the opportunity to learn, to dedicate all my resources to study and personal growth. I leave not only with the title 'Rabbi', but as a different person."

The Bridge

Serving as TALI rabbi at the Megged Ra'anana elementary school for the past three years, Michal worked closely with the schools' teachers and students. Often armed with a guitar and the TALI prayer book, she was "able to delve deeper than the teachers" into existential issues and matters of faith. She will continue at the school with a new pre-school program for four TALI kindergartens in the Ra'anana area. A graduate of SRS's first accredited chaplaincy program in Israel, Michal will continue to work in this new field of spiritual care in Israel.

The "Matan Torah" Learning Community which Michal has led since its inception in 2008, meets once a month to uncover the connections between modern Hebrew literature and Jewish commentaries. "My work as a rabbi is more crucial today than when I began the rabbinic program. Then, Israeli society, although in need of a spiritual component, was mainly ignorant of that fact. Today, many more Israelis feel the spiritual and cultural vacuum in which they live. They are looking for meaningful answers."





The Builder

Dubi (Dov) Haiyun, 50, 2009 Rabbinical Graduate; Rabbi of Kehillat Moriah and Midreshet Moriah, Haifa; Legacy Heritage Rabbinic Fellow at Bet Midrash Learning Communities in Kfar Tabor and Neve Yosef neighborhood, Haifa; PhD candidate, Bar Ilan University.

The Blueprint

“The words of Shimon the Righteous (Ethics of the Fathers) are my constant guide: The world stands on three things - on Torah, Avodah and Gemilut Hasidim. Torah is our Bet Midrash - our Learning Community; Avodah is synagogue worship and Gemilut Hasidim (acts of loving kindness) allows us to heal ourselves and the larger society in which we live.”

The Bridge

“Give a job to a busy man” is wisdom that Dubi Haiyun takes to heart. He began his stint as rabbi at Haifa’s Kehillat Moriah a year ago while still a rabbinical student at Schechter. In that short time and with only a half-time position, he has breathed new life into the community, creating ‘round-the-clock programming geared to every age. Plans are underway for a new building which will house Midreshet Moriah, a Bet Midrash that will offer Jewish studies to all residents of the area.

As a Legacy Heritage Rabbinic Fellow, Dubi taught at the Bet Midrash Learning Community in Kibbutz Beit Hashita. He mentors a new community in Kfar Tabor and has established a similar group in a disadvantaged neighborhood of Haifa where the emphasis will be placed on Sephardi traditions and culture. “My approach is holistic. As a spiritual leader, I must ‘be there’ for fellow congregants at every level of belief and at each stage of the life cycle.”

The Builder:

Dina Rosenberg, 25, JTS student; spent the year in Jerusalem in the Schechter overseas program; grew up in Los Angeles with a strong connection to Conservative life and Temple Aliyah.

The Blueprint:

“The learning was skill-based and put us ‘squarely into the moment.’ Because of Schechter’s strong emphasis on Talmud and Halakhah, I feel that I can make decisions based on an informed knowledge of Jewish Law – perfect for the teaching and mentoring challenges that lay ahead!”

The Bridge:

Dina’s year at Schechter, along with 33 other rabbinic colleagues from the Jewish Theological Seminary in New York, Ziegler School of Rabbinic Studies in Los Angeles, the Seminario Rabinico in Buenos Aires and other seminaries, allowed for a deeper and more meaningful encounter with Israel and its people. Her Hebrew skills dramatically increased, as did her ability to work with Talmudic texts.

Dina will be interned at the Germantown Jewish Center in Philadelphia during the summer and next year at Columbia University’s Hillel House. She has received a Legacy Fellowship for work with the Biloxi Jewish community, still recovering from the ravages of Hurricane Katrina. “I return to the U.S. with a stronger sense of halakhic authority and sense of self – both crucial to defining my rabbinic character. The year at Schechter surpassed all of my expectations!”

