The author of psalms praised Jerusalem for bringing together all its residents. Within our walls at Schechter, students from all over Israel gather together to learn from you. Experiencing great diversity, both in lives and in background, they bridge both in Jerusalem through the unifying education that is distinctly Schechter. They come searching for a Judaism that speaks their language. They leave more knowledgeable, filled with a new and fresh sense of Jewish continuity and community.

Enter Schechter. There you’ll find the heart of the campus: its people, its programs, its growth. Through the links of Jewish learning and thought, spiritual quest and discovery, commitment to excellence and social action, we are “building up Jerusalem” and the Jewish people worldwide for future generations.

But our space has become too small. Classrooms too crowded. Building a larger campus will enable us to build a stronger Jewish people: more teachers, more Conservative rabbis, more TALI schools, more Russian-speaking Jewish communities in Israel and eastern Europe.

Designed by world renowned Israeli architect Ada Karmi, our $22 million campus is destined to enhance the physical beauty of Jerusalem. Wrapping itself around the hills of Jerusalem, it will strive to fulfill the psalmist’s fervent plea: Jerusalem Built Up is Like a City Joined as One.
Ada Karmi, Israeli architect of world renown who designed Israel’s Supreme Court Building, was chosen in an international competition to design the new Jerusalem campus of the Schechter Institute. Karmi is impressed with the “harmonious music” of learning that flows through the halls of Schechter. She dedicates her design to the people of Schechter who for her, embody the connection between “Beauty and Judaism.”

The Schechter Institute touches me in a very profound way. Schechter’s essence is in the “hum.” There’s a certain noise, a certain music that has to do with the learning that takes place inside its halls. You find people studying together out loud. They are not disturbing one another, but rather harmonizing together. At Schechter I’ve found something quite rare—a streak of modesty and humility—a humility that Israel has somehow lost. Yet I think Israelis are longing to find it again. Because our political and security situation seems to have no solution, Israelis are starting to look within, to redefine their Jewish identity.

The Jewish people are the people of “text.” We need to become the people of “place” as well. Schechter seems to be combining our texts with a commitment to place, to serving the community. Where text and place meet, one finds the true aesthetic of Judaism. I am trying to capture that aesthetic in this campus.

The Schechter Institute of Jewish Studies, Inc. is a not-for-profit (501-c-3) organization dedicated to the advancement of pluralistic Jewish education. Schechter Institute of Jewish Studies, Inc. provides support to four non-profit organizations based in Jerusalem, Israel: Schechter Institute of Jewish Studies: A Graduate School offering innovative, interdisciplinary MA programs to Israeli educators of all backgrounds and beliefs. Schechter Rabbinical Seminary: A Rabbinical School for the training of educational and community leaders for Israel and abroad. TALI: A nationwide Jewish education program offering enriched pluralistic Jewish Studies in 170 public schools and kindergartens throughout Israel. Midreshet Yerushalayim: An educational program offering study opportunities in Jewish culture to immigrants from the former Soviet Union in Israel and in communities throughout Eastern Europe.
**My Work:** Teacher at Hadror Elementary School, Mevasseret Zion, which joined the TALI school network, Fall 2006. Learning in Schechter’s M.A. program for Teaching Jewish Studies

**My Vision:** I have always wanted to devote myself to teacher training. I looked at universities all over the country for a relevant program. Only Schechter answered my needs. I plan on using the knowledge and the degree to train teachers in our school’s new Jewish Studies curriculum.

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**Dr. Guy Miron**

**My Work:** Dean, Schechter Institute of Jewish Studies Graduate School, Senior Lecturer in Modern Jewish History; Ph.D., Jewish History, The Hebrew University, Jerusalem

**My Vision:** The Schechter Institute is committed to making modern Jewish studies accessible to all Israeli students. Always keen to innovate, we will continue to establish new teaching fields, such as our M.A. track in Contemporary Jewry, which combines classical Jewish studies with new pedagogic approaches. This interdisciplinary method is designed to strengthen the Schechter “dialogue” with the needs of Israeli society.

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**Hadas Raphaeli**

**My Work:** Teacher at Hadror Elementary School, Mevasseret Zion, which joined the TALI school network, Fall 2006. Learning in Schechter’s M.A. program for Teaching Jewish Studies

**My Vision:** I have always wanted to devote myself to teacher training. I looked at universities all over the country for a relevant program. Only Schechter answered my needs. I plan on using the knowledge and the degree to train teachers in our school’s new Jewish Studies curriculum.
Marina Malter and Malka Goldschlager

**Our Work:** Teachers at the Harei Eilat Elementary School, Eilat, which joined the TALI school network in 2005. They fly every Wednesday to Jerusalem for the TALI Leadership Program at Schechter

**Our Vision:** Marina I felt insecure teaching Jewish subjects. I came to Israel from Lithuania in 1990 with a science background. It came as quite a shock to me when I realized that most of the Israeli-born teachers felt no more comfortable with their Judaism.... As educators, we have always placed the emphasis on "achievement." But I’m beginning to realize that the teaching of [Jewish] values is the basis for all real achievement.

Malka We have raised a generation that knows math, but not Judaism. There is a tendency today to rely on "experts" for everything. Schechter has given me the confidence to take Judaism into my own hands and shape it into something palatable for my students.

**My Work:** Regional Director, Education Ministry’s Youth Services; Responsible for formal and informal education for 200,000 citizens in Israel’s central region. Recipient of Israel’s Life Achievement Award in Education, 2006

**My Vision:** I’m a fieldworker at heart; a teacher with thirty years experience working with disadvantaged kids from the street. Give somebody an opportunity, let him know that your belief in him comes from a place of “love”, and I give you a person with an unlimited potential to achieve.

I accompanied an Israeli youth delegation to Poland; kids that will fly Israel’s F16s and also be our next Prime Ministers. They wave the Israeli flag at Auschwitz with tears in their eyes. In their hands they hold a prayer book in their native Hebrew but are unable to recite Kaddish for the six million...that is a national crime... Schechter comes to remedy this situation.

Rafi Dahan

**My Work:** Teachers at the Harei Eilat Elementary School, Eilat, which joined the TALI school network in 2005. They fly every Wednesday to Jerusalem for the TALI Leadership Program at Schechter

**My Vision:** Marina I felt insecure teaching Jewish subjects. I came to Israel from Lithuania in 1990 with a science background. It came as quite a shock to me when I realized that most of the Israeli-born teachers felt no more comfortable with their Judaism.... As educators, we have always placed the emphasis on “achievement.” But I’m beginning to realize that the teaching of [Jewish] values is the basis for all real achievement.

Malka We have raised a generation that knows math, but not Judaism. There is a tendency today to rely on “experts” for everything. Schechter has given me the confidence to take Judaism into my own hands and shape it into something palatable for my students.
My Vision:
Twenty years ago I led a feminist struggle in the Conservative movement in Israel. As a secular Israeli who studied to be a Conservative rabbi, I felt that egalitarianism was really in the spirit of both Israeli Zionism and Halakhic Judaism. A sophisticated Masorti/Conservative vision was necessary for the Jewish and democratic continuity of Israeli society.

Schechter is allowing me to continue the struggle for equality. We are engaged in a larger cultural revolution not only for women, but for all Israelis who want to re-claim their right to knowledge of Jewish traditions and meaningful observance.

My Work: Dean, Schechter Rabbinical Seminary
First Israeli-born woman rabbi and Dean of a Conservative seminary; Schechter Lecturer in Jewish Thought and Women’s Studies

Rabbi Dr. Einat Ramon
My Vision: At face value, Israeli society seems modern. But if you scratch below the surface, it is very patriarchal — an outgrowth of our security needs and the army’s influence. As a woman rabbi, I hope to “tip the scale” in favor of Jewish education and family values, which are just as important as our security needs.

My Work: Rabbinical student also studying for an M.A. in Jewish Women’s Studies; mother of four

Michal Schwartz

My Vision: To be a teacher and a guide. The rabbinate seemed to be the natural place for me to accomplish those goals. This year at Schechter was about daily living in Israel. My Hebrew just exploded. The level of learning was amazing. Everything came together. As future leaders we must see ourselves as Israel’s most articulate spokespersons, bringing Israel into the lives of our community.

My Work: JTS rabbinical student; spent the year in Israel at the Schechter Rabbinical Seminary’s program for overseas rabbinical students

Joel Seltzer
Rabbi Elisha Wolfin

My Work: TALI Rabbi, Alona School, Moshav Amikam and Arison Art School, Tel Aviv; Rabbi, Kehila V’havta, Zichron Ya’akov; Director, TALI Leadership Development Program; In-service teacher training in ten TALI schools

My Vision: Judaism is the language in which we “talk” our lives; the text in which we explore our inner selves. When a person is mute because of the lack of language, text, rituals, it’s a tremendously painful and frustrating experience. I want to help Israelis find an authentic language in which to express their humanity as well as deal with the complexities of life in Israel and the modern world. The task is formidable. Enhancing life in a secular world, Judaism must be non-threatening; conversing, never preaching.
My Work: Director, TALI Educational Resource Development; Editor-in-Chief, TALI Textbooks; Graduate of Schecheter Institute Educational Leadership Track

My Vision: Ten years ago we started with a modest production of worksheets for the Weekly Torah Portion. Our dream was to come out with a line of textbooks that could compete in concept, content and graphic design with any general studies textbook in Israel. Since then, we have produced sixteen TALI textbooks for the children of Israel.

I’m gratified to know that children in the State Schools who have “experienced” a TALI textbook can enter any synagogue and “experience” the ceremony in a full and enriching way. More important, they now have the tools to engage in a meaningful dialogue with their Jewish heritage.

My Work: TALI counselor, Informal Education Department, two years of volunteer work in the framework of “National Service” duty; graduate of TALI Masorti High School and TALI Bayit V’Gan, Jerusalem

My Vision: My grandfathers were rabbis in Yemen. They guarded the religion with their bodies and souls. In a way, I feel like I am continuing in their footsteps. Conducting TALI Jewish education workshops, I reach mothers, fathers and their children all over Israel. The content is built in a way that allows them to construct their own personal Jewish world with the narrative we provide. That I am facilitating their personal journey toward Judaism gives me a great sense of satisfaction.
Gila Katz

My Work: Director, Midreshet Yerushalayim-Ukraine; Founding Principal of the TALI Jewish Day School, 1991, Chernowitz; responsible for over thirty educational projects in Ukraine in conjunction with Masorti Olami, including Camp Ramah-Ukraine and Kiev Cultural Center.

My Vision: Our mission is to create a Jewish program for the entire family that combines knowledge and religion with spirituality. “Experience the Knowledge” and “Bring the Knowledge Back into the Home” are what guides us in all we do.

Midreshet Yerushalayim-Israel Celebrating 15 Years of Achievement

Mira Ginsburg

My Work: Project Coordinator, Midreshet Yerushalayim-Israel; graduate of Community Leaders Course for Russian-speakers, Schechter Institute; M.S. in electrical engineering, Tashkent Polytechnic Institute; Aliyah 1991.

My Vision: Russian Jews come to Israel with a deep mistrust of religious authority and a penchant for the “rational.” Midreshet Yerushalayim takes these traits and turns them into strengths. We teach them Jewish culture. They forget their fear of Jewish coercion. I hope that through the learning, we are creating better people. I have seen individuals, new in the country, with little to hold onto, form themselves into a loving and learning community, with Judaism providing the anchor.

Mitia Fruman

My Work: Participant in Midreshet Yerushalayim Heritage Trails course; Supervisor, Information Systems, Nature Parks Authority, Jerusalem; PhDs in Atmospheric Science and Historical Geography, Hebrew University; Aliyah 1994 from St. Petersburg.

My Vision: Heritage Trails is unique in that it interweaves Jewish studies with Russian symbols in a cultural “language” we understand. The group, coming from very diverse backgrounds, has bonded in a very special way.

Gila Katz

My Work: Director, Midreshet Yerushalayim-Ukraine; Founding Principal of the TALI Jewish Day School, 1991, Chernowitz; responsible for over thirty educational projects in Ukraine in conjunction with Masorti Olami, including Camp Ramah-Ukraine and Kiev Cultural Center.

My Vision: Our mission is to create a Jewish program for the entire family that combines knowledge and religion with spirituality. “Experience the Knowledge” and “Bring the Knowledge Back into the Home” are what guides us in all we do.

Roman Stamov

My Work: Coordinator for Midreshet Yerushalayim and Marom-Masorti Olami in the FSU; M.S. in Mechanical Engineering; graduate Midreshet Yerushalayim MILI facilitators’ course; Aliyah 2003 from Crimea.

My Vision: I love children. I am the luckiest person in the world to have come to Israel and immediately immersed myself in work that I enjoy. The key to education is patience and always changing the pace and content of the programming.
Diana Gold

My Work: Director, Kiev Cultural Center; 1st class of graduates of the TALI Chernowitz Jewish Day School; Camp Ramah-Ukraine counselor for eight summers

My Vision: Religious observance in Ukraine has been represented by extremism. Midreshet Yerushalayim and Conservative Judaism provide the “middle way.” My hope is to make our Kiev Center the heart of Jewish life in Ukraine’s capital city. I will be fulfilled if the knowledge and values we pass on become more important to each recipient than the giving has been to us.

Aleksandr (Sasha) Ivashchenko

My Work: Director, Donetsk Family Community School, Ukraine; B.S. in Mining Engineering; boxing trainer as a hobby because “in Ukraine, Jews must know how to defend themselves against anti-Semitism”

My Vision: Our job is to give the Ukrainian Jewish community the option to choose non-Orthodox Judaism. People want to lead full Jewish lives that are both modern and meaningful. My dream is to establish a learning community in every city in Ukraine and to see a Conservative kippah on every head!
Each page of the report provides vivid evidence of Schechter’s effective commitment to sowing the land with Jewish knowledge and democratic values.

As I write, the people of Israel are recovering from the latest round of hostilities that traumatized the northern border for more than a month. Clearly, Israel’s citizens continue to pay a steep price for their determination to live as a free nation in their own land.

Schechter is playing a role in Israel’s recovery. In times of crisis, men, women and children seek meaning beyond the perils of the day and significance beyond the alarms of the hour. The Schechter Jewish education enterprise is responding to those needs by imparting the sense of history and destiny that our texts and traditions supply. Once again we all draw strength from the prophet Isaiah: “Comfort, oh comfort my people.” And once again we are called on to “Speak tenderly to Jerusalem.” (40:1-2)

Today, more than ever, Israelis are turning to Schechter to provide them with the tools needed to tap into their Jewish roots. And our growth reflects that demand. Graduate School enrollment is up 15% over last year, in spite of the war...or maybe because of it!

The number of TALI schools has grown 30% in the last two years. The Rabbinical Seminary, for the first time, enrolled a majority of Israeli-born students, with a waiting list for next year. Midreshet Yerushalayim continues to open up new clubs for Russian-speaking immigrants, who as newcomers to Israel are most in need of finding their Jewish bearings.

In response to Schechter’s growth, we have, of necessity, embarked on a capital campaign to fund the construction of the new buildings we so desperately need. The inescapable reality is that, Schechter has outgrown its present facilities, and a new campus must be built. The campaign has met with understanding and generous support, and we have raised sufficient funds to build the first of several buildings. I am very pleased to invite you to attend the cornerstone laying ceremony for our new classroom building in Jerusalem on November 28th, 2006, and I invite your support for the completion of the campus. I hope you will join us in laying the foundations for Schechter’s continued growth and expressing our confidence in the future of Jerusalem.

With my best wishes for a year of peace.

Robert S. Rifkind
Chairman of the Board
Schechter Institute of Jewish Studies, Inc.

Throughout Jewish history, when Jews faced external enemies they went back to the sources for comfort and inspiration. We at Schechter have witnessed this phenomenon once again during and after the recent war in the Galilee. While the Katyushas were falling, our rabbinical and graduate students continued their summer courses at Schechter, many of them commuting from the Galilee. Our enrollment in our M.A. program is up by 15%, while nine schools and 27 pre-schools are joining the TALI school system.

When our enemies attack us, Israelis want to know: why are we here and why should we stay? Schechter, TALI and Midreshet Yerushalayim provide the answers by going back to the sources and making the Jewish bookshelf accessible to all Israelis. That is why all of our programs continue to grow despite the current crisis.

Here are a few highlights as we enter the year 5767:

• The Schechter Institute Graduate School will have over 500 students this fall. Our faculty spoke at dozens of Conservative synagogues and academic conferences last year while publishing eighteen new books. Dr. Guy Miron, the dynamic new Dean, has added a new M.A. track in Contemporary Jewry.

• The Schechter Rabbinical Seminary, led by its energetic new Dean, Rabbi Dr. Einat Ramon, has opened a new accredited course in Chaplaincy. She has inaugurated a new Hebrew website (www.schechter.org.il), while reviving Iyunim Shabbat, a Hebrew-English electronic commentary on the weekly Torah portion. Applications for the Israeli rabbinical program have risen dramatically, while overseas enrollment has increased by 30%

• The TALI Education Fund will reach 30,000 children at over 170 Israeli schools and pre-schools. Indeed, the TALI school system is now so large that it has been divided into two regions – North and South. TALI published six new textbooks in 2005-06; many more books are in preparation.

• Midreshet Yerushalayim is now celebrating its 15th anniversary. Midreshet Yerushalayim in Israel will run a new MLI course for students from the FSU who will take the program back to their respective countries. Midreshet Yerushalayim in Ukraine has a new Center in Kiev (co-sponsored by Masorti Olami), and a new school in Donetsk, with other cities waiting in line to open new Community Schools.

• Fundraising increased 14% in 2005-06. We are especially pleased that Jerome and Miriam Katzin of San Diego endowed our first Chair in Jewish Studies. We have received $5 million dollars in pledges towards our new campus and the official groundbreaking ceremony will take place in November 2006.

The Schechter family of programs now teaches over 35,000 Israeli and European Jews every year. With your support, we will continue to bring Israelis back to the sources, to help them weather the current storm, while giving them the knowledge and identity which will strengthen them for the challenges that lie ahead.

Prof. David Golinkin
President
Schechter Institute of Jewish Studies
Highlights 2005–2006

Schechter Celebrates First Graduation as Fully Accredited Israeli Institution

The Schechter Institute of Jewish Studies held its first commencement exercises as an Israeli accredited graduate school on November 30, 2005. Schechter received official recognition as an Israeli academic institution by Israel’s Council for Higher Education in June 2005. At the ceremony, 46 students received M.A. degrees, joining over 700 of their colleagues who since 1994, received Schechter degrees as a branch of the Jewish Theological Seminary.

Jerome and Miriam Katzin Chair Established

The Jerome and Miriam Katzin Presidential Chair in Jewish Studies, established on the occasion of Schechter’s first commencement exercises as an Israeli academic institution in November 2005, is a significant milestone for the institution’s academic growth. Katzin, from San Diego, California, is a distinguished civic and business leader. The endowment of a Chair establishes a perpetual fund that provides annual income to support the academic and research efforts of the President of the Schechter Institute.

Academic Appointments

• Dr. Aaron Singer retired after ten years of teaching Midrash. He will continue to teach part-time.
• Dr. Amram Dolev retired after twelve years of teaching psychology and acting as Faculty Advisor to the M.A. programs in Family and Community Studies and Judaism and the Arts. He will continue to teach part-time.
• Dr. Paul Mandel was appointed Senior Lecturer with Tenure in Midrash. He left a faculty position at the University of Haifa in order to join the Schechter faculty.
• Rabbi Dr. Paul Shrell–Fox has become a full-time Lecturer in Family and Community Studies and Faculty Advisor for that track.
• Dr. Ari Ackerman received a tenure-track appointment as Lecturer in Jewish Thought and Jewish Education.
• Dr. Tamar Kadari was appointed full-time Lecturer in Midrash.
• Dr. Bat–Sheva Stern has joined the full-time faculty as a lecturer in Jewish Women’s Studies.
• Dr. Shula Laderman has joined the full-time faculty and has been appointed Coordinator for Academic Development.
• Dr. Pinna Feller has been appointed Advisor to the Dean for Student Affairs.

New Administrative Appointments

Shimon Arbel stepped down as Director General in December 2005. We wish him the best of luck in his new position at the Technion in Haifa. Two new positions were created whereby Eitan Cooper, former Development Director, was appointed Vice President for Development and Liat Citron, former Finance Director, was appointed Vice President for Finance and Administration.

Scholarship Recipients

Substantial tuition assistance provided:
• 128 Davidson scholarships to first-year students (an increase of 15% over the number of recipients in 2004–05)
• 36 Kochav Trust, JAFI, JUF Chicago and Harry Kramer Memorial Fund scholarships for educators from development towns
• 55 TALI teachers and principals through JAFI, UJA Federation New York, Legacy Heritage Fund Limited, UJC Metro West and for TALI Leadership Program
• 70 partial tuition scholarships through the Estate of Edythe Griffinger
• Ten Rifkind–Meresman Scholarships for academic excellence endowed by the Charles H. Revson Foundation
• Ten Harold Grinspoon Foundation Scholarships for Graduates of the TALI Leadership program completing their M.A. degrees in Jewish Education
• Two Shalvi Scholarships for Excellence in Judaism and the Arts and Jewish Women’s Studies
• Two Sidney Frank Foundation Scholarships for outstanding students in the Jewish Women’s Studies M.A. track

Strategic Planning Process Completed

The Schechter Institute completed a strategic planning process, after eighteen months of study and deliberation carried out by its Academic Council and Executive Committee. The report was presented and adopted at the Schechter Institute Board of Governors meeting in November 2005.

The Numbers:

450 M.A. students specializing in

| Inter-Disciplinary Studies | 116 |
| Land of Israel Studies     | 58  |
| Teaching Jewish Studies    | 95  |
| Family and Community Studies | 72  |
| Jewish Women’s Studies     | 29  |
| Informal Education         | 36  |
| Judaism and the Arts       | 45  |

Faculty Members: 59

Courses Offered: 200

2005 Graduates: 46 M.A. degrees

SIJS Graduates by Geographic Area

Total: 750
Library Acquisitions
• from the collection of Ms. Shari Ziv, of Jerusalem, a collection of books on Jewish Thought and Zionism
• a collection of journals, periodicals and books donated by Dr. Arieh Goren, Jerusalem

New Recruitment Campaign Brings Results
Enrollment for the 2006-07 academic year is up 15%, compared with figures for the same time last year. As in past years, the Davidson Scholarships to first-year students were critical to recruitment success as was the “word of mouth” campaign by Schechter graduates and students that remains one of Schechter’s most powerful recruitment tools. In addition, a new advertising campaign utilized buses, full-page ads in a national chain of local newspapers, direct mail and a number of “Open House” days at Schechter where potential students met with program advisors at length. A number of special in-service training seminars were organized at Schechter, including two seminars on Land of Israel studies that were delivered to over 100 tour guides – all potential M.A. students.

Academic Conferences
• The First Annual Sarah Becker Frank Conference on the Status of Women in Israel was held in December 2005 at the Schechter Institute. “Forming a New Social Order: Women and Womanhood Shaping the Yishuv Society,” was organized by Dr. Bat-Sheva Stern and Prof. Renée Levine Melammed, both of the Jewish Women’s Studies M.A. track. In May 2006, the Second Annual Sarah Becker Frank Conference was held at the Van Leer Institute in Jerusalem to mark the publication of Za’akat Dalot: Halakhic Solutions for the Agunot of our Time, published by Schechter Institute’s Center for Women in Jewish Law and written by Center senior researchers, Rabbis Diana Villa and Monique Susskind Goldberg, both Schechter rabbinical graduates.
• The Israeli Branch of the International Association for the Advancement of Curriculum Studies, of which the Schechter Institute is a founding member, organized a national conference on "Curriculum Development in an Age of Standardization" in July at Beit Berl College. The conference was co-sponsored by the Schechter Institute, with a session chaired by Dr. Brenda Bacon, Senior Lecturer in Jewish Education at the Schechter Institute.
• The International Society of Franz Rosenzweig Scholars will be holding its bi-annual conference in Jerusalem in September 2006. Organized by Dr. Yossi Turner, Senior Lecturer in Jewish Thought at the Schechter Institute and Dr. Yehoyada Amir from HUC-Jerusalem, the conference will bring together over fifty scholars from the USA, Europe and Israel.
• An academic colloquium of Bar Ilan University, the Catholic Theological University in Utrecht, Holland (KTU) and the Schechter Institute is organizing an international conference on “Jewish and Christian Perspectives” in Jerusalem in January 2007. This ecumenical gathering began in 1993 when Bar Ilan University and the KTU established an academic colloquium. In 2003, they asked the Schechter Institute to join the colloquium to provide a modern perspective on Jewish law and theology.

Prizes
Liebhaber Prize for Religious Tolerance
The Ninth Annual Rabbi Marc and Dr. Henia Liebhaber Prize for Religious Tolerance was awarded in November 2005 to Ruth Lehavi, the founder and principal of Jerusalem’s Keshet School whose student body consists of children from religious and secular homes.

Kekst Faculty Fellowship
Rabbi Dr. Eina Ramon, Dean of the Rabbinical Seminary and Lecturer in Jewish Thought and Women’s Studies at the Schechter Institute, was selected as the Kekst Faculty Fellow for 2005-07. Ramon’s book on Zionist philosopher, A. D. Gordon, will be published in late 2006.
New M.A. Specialization in Contemporary Jewry
A new M.A. track in Contemporary Jewry will join the other twelve specializations in Jewish Studies offered at the Schechter Institute for the 2006-07 academic year. This interdisciplinary program, a first step in the implementation of the Strategic Planning Report, will combine courses in Zionism, the Holocaust, Modern Jewish Thought and Modern Jewish History.

JTS’s Davidson School of Education Makes Return Trip to Schechter
The Schechter Institute, for the second year in a row, sponsored an educational seminar for thirty students of JTS’s Davidson School of Education, which took place December 22 – January 10, 2006. The three-week session included learning at Schechter as well as a study tour of Israel based on site visits of educational institutions to compare their different visions. It was coordinated by Dr. Alex Sinclair of JTS and Rabbi Shlomo Tucker, Associate Dean of the Schechter Rabbinical Seminary.

Schechter Graduate Feted
Moshe Luzon, student of the Family and Community Studies M.A. track and recipient of a Development Town scholarship, received a prize for Best Community Center Director in the Galilee from the National Association of Community Centers. He is Executive Director for a network of community centers in Kiryat Bialik, north of Haifa, and lives in Akko.

German Students from the Free University (FU) in Berlin Meet Schechter Colleagues
Twenty-five Jewish Studies students from Berlin’s Free University (FU) met with a class of Schechter students taught by Prof. Tal Ilan. The joint learning session which took place in December was organized by Dr. Guy Miron to facilitate academic discourse between the two institutions. Miron returned to Berlin’s FU in January to address students of the “Culture and Society in Israel” course.

Research Institutes
The Center for Judaism and the Arts
The Center for Judaism and the Arts was established in 2001 to enrich the culture of Jewish life in Israel and includes the M.A. track in Judaism and the Arts and the Judaism and the Arts Website for TALI Schools.

The M.A. track in Judaism and the Arts, established in 2000 with the cooperation of the Israel Museum, continues to be a popular M.A. program at Schechter, with forty-five students majoring in the program, while hundreds of students from all study tracks opt to take elective courses.

Schechter was transformed into an “art venue” with student exhibits and presentations including: A presentation by Dr. Shula Laderman, Judaism and the Arts M.A. faculty advisor, on “Illuminated Jewish Manuscripts of the Middle Ages,” in honor of the exhibit donated to the Schechter Institute through Prof. Daniel Sperber and the Leiber Center for Exhibitions of Jewish Art of Bar Ilan University; “Creating Life Out of Words,” an exhibit of student works from the Handmade Midrash class, taught by Dr. Jo Milgrom; Music in Judaism performance by students of Prof. Andre Haidu; screening of “From the Bible to the Cinema: The Story of Bat Yiftach,” by Einat Kapah, Schechter M.A. student and cinematographer.
Dear Rabbi Golinkin,

I can’t tell you how grateful I am for the warm hospitality that your staff and faculty showed me during my all-too-brief sabbatical stay in Israel. Of all the institutions where I was privileged to study while in Israel, I felt most at home, intellectually and otherwise at Schechter. The world view, the devotion to “truth even unto its innermost parts,” and the focus on trying to bring Jewish studies into the life of Israelis of all religious sensibilities were all very compelling.

Rabbi Carl Perkins, Temple Aliyah, Needham, MA

an exhibit by M.A. student Michal Deshen-Deutsch entitled “Drought and Deluge: Contrasts in the Songs of Ascents,” as part of a class on Israeli Art and Jewish Identity, taught by Ronit Steinberg. Within the class framework, Asher Dahan, artist and graduate of Schechter’s Bet Midrash for Artists lectured on “Current Israeli Art and the Jewish Experience.”

Judaism and the Arts Website, the Center’s newest project, represents a pioneering effort to create a bridge between the world of art and Jewish education for schools, as well as Jewish studies professors and Jewish educators around the world.

A collection of more than 4,000 slides illustrating Jewish themes was donated to the TALI Education Fund by Schechter faculty member Dr. Jo Milgrom. Center staff members are cataloguing the collection electronically and developing educational materials based on it. The project, which began in 2005-06, will take another three years to complete.

A search engine has been developed, and with 30% of the data gathering completed, it is allowing sorts by subject matter and painting content. Dr. Milgrom is producing essays on themes represented in the artworks. Each essay includes thumbnails of the relevant paintings that will be linked into the archive, as well as didactic questions and suggestions for research/creative projects.

“The Center for Women in Jewish Law

The Center for Women in Jewish Law, since its inception in 1999, is devoted to researching, publishing and educating the public on the rights of women from the perspective of the Jewish legal tradition. The Center, through its seven Hebrew-English issues of Jewish Law Watch, has advanced Jewish law advocacy research in the area of agunot (women whose husbands refuse them a writ of divorce and whose cases have dragged on in Israeli rabbinic courts). Most recently, a new popular series, To Learn and To Teach, has been distributed to targeted populations throughout the world in five languages. Each booklet is devoted to a specific topic on the status of women in Jewish Law.

Publications 2005-2006

- To Learn and To Teach #3: Women in the Minyan and as Shelihot Tzibbur (March 2006) was published simultaneously in Hebrew, English, French, Spanish and Russian.
- Za’akat Dalot (The Cry of the Wretched): Halakhic Solutions for the Agunot of Our Time (March 2006), in Hebrew with English summaries, is the first comprehensive survey of proposed solutions for women unable to receive a Jewish divorce due to the recalcitrance of their husbands. The book, which tackles one of the most difficult halakhic questions of our day, is the culmination of six years of meticulous research by Center researchers and Schechter graduates, Rabbis Monique Susskind Goldberg and Diana Villa. Prof. David Golinkin, Prof. Moshe Benovitz and Rabbi Richard Lewis edited the book. Center publications are available for purchase online at: www.schechter.edu. Some publications can be downloaded for viewing at: www.ResponsaForToday.com.
- In preparation: To Learn and To Teach #4, Pre-Nuptial Agreements, which advances a new halakhic prenuptial agreement that commits divorcing couples to pay out large monthly sums in case of recalcitrance, with the knowledge that these agreements would be enforced by the civil courts. This agreement will be presented to Conservative rabbis worldwide. As it becomes accepted, the number of agunot is expected to decrease.

Outreach 2005-2006

Rabbis Diana Villa and Monique Susskind Goldberg, senior researchers at the Center, participated in a number of public events and committees in Israel focusing on women’s advocacy and Jewish law. Rabbi Diana Villa served as chairperson of the Halakhic committee for ICAR (International Coalition for Agunah Rights) in 2005-06, and also
represented the Center on the coalition.

Outside of Israel: Rabbi Diana Vila attended the Rabbinical Assembly Convention in Mexico City where she lectured on “Halakhic Solutions to the Problem of the Agunah.” She also spoke on “Women and Jewish Law” at the Universidad Hebraica, Mexico City and at the Bet El Synagogue in Mexico City, February 2006. Rabbi Susskind Goldberg taught a three-week Talmud class on “The Abusive Husband” at the Jewish Community Center, Brussels, Belgium, September 2006.

The Institute of Applied Halakhah
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.

Books published in 2005-2006


Schechter Students From Northern Israel Cope With New Situation
Three Schechter students from Israel’s north - Gaby Dagan and Nibal Houri from Haifa and Yehuda Melamed from Karmiel – in spite of the hostilities, decided not to postpone their studies. They traveled to classes in Jerusalem three times a week for the duration of the war, knowing full well that the sounding of sirens and the attack of missiles were occurring daily.

We met with Nabil, Gaby and Yehuda, two days after a Jewish man and Moslem girl were killed in rocket attacks. While we spoke, rockets were slamming into Haifa. Cellphones buzzed and rang as Nibal’s son called to tell her how close to home the most recent katyusha rocket fell, and Gaby received updates from work.

“I have been inside our apartment almost constantly with my ten-year-old old,” explains Nibal Houri, a new M.A. student in Jewish Studies. “It was difficult to leave them and come to Jerusalem today. Every time there is a warning siren, we scramble inside the security room.”

Nibal, a Christian Arab student is pursuing an M.A. in Jewish Studies. She says the degree is tailor-made for the program she teaches called Shelach, which includes geography, Israel studies and tours around the country. According to Nibal, these courses are as important for the Arab citizens in Israel as they are for the Jewish majority. “I have already found Schechter to be very open and warm and a wonderful environment for learning,” she adds.

Co-existence Comes Together at Schechter
Gabriel (Gaby) Dagan, from Haifa, is completing his second year at the Schechter Institute. A mere 22 miles south of the Lebanese border, Haifa’s 300,000 residents, a mixed population of Christians, Moslems and Jews, bore much of the brunt of Hezbollah’s missile attacks of the war.

Gaby works as a facilitator for Tapestry, a NPO that contributes to the ongoing dialogue between Jews and Arabs in educational facilities, summer camps, community centers and other public forums. Most recently, Tapestry has joined forces with the TALI Education Fund to build a co-existence program in Arab-sector schools and TALI schools.

Although both Gaby and Nibal live in Haifa and have children almost the same ages, their paths had never crossed until they met at Schechter. Now Nibal joins Gaby for the ride to Jerusalem, where the two often discuss Jewish philosophy on their way home!

Schechter student Yehuda Melamed, from Karmiel, a pastoral city of 50,000 located in the Galilee, is Director of the Karmiel Youth Village which houses 270 children at risk. Not only did Karmiel become a new front line in this war where Israel’s citizens were being tested daily, but the Youth Village also received a direct hit by a katyusha missile.

"Fortunately the missile did not land on a home or building, and the damage was minimal,” says Yehuda. “Even with all of the tension of the past two weeks, I knew that coming to Schechter would be stimulating—and even a means of relaxation for me!” says Yehuda.

May their deeds be of blessed memory
The faculty, staff and students of the Schechter Institute extend deepest condolences to Riva and Moshe Muskal, from Mazkeret Batya, whose son, staff sergeant Raphael Muskal was killed in action while serving in an elite infantry unit in Lebanon. Our hearts go out to Riva, a Schechter M.A. student, and to all the families who sacrificed their loved ones in defense of the Jewish homeland.
Schechter Rabbinical Seminary
Rabbi Dr. Einat Ramon was appointed Dean of the Schechter Rabbinical Seminary in March 2006, making her the first woman in the world to head a Conservative seminary. Ramon was also the first Israeli woman to be ordained a Conservative rabbi by the Jewish Theological Seminary in 1989. She holds a Ph.D. in Religion from Stanford University and is a prominent scholar in modern Jewish Thought. She is a leading public intellectual representing the Masorti Movement in Israel, in which she has been involved at many levels. Serving as Acting Dean from June 2005, Ramon initiated a number of new programs in her first year in the position.

Rabbi Professor Hanan Alexander, elected chair of the Executive Committee of the Schechter Rabbinical Seminary in October 2005, has brought expertise and vision to the rabbinical school. Professor Alexander was ordained by the Jewish Theological Seminary and holds a Ph.D. in Education and Humanities from Stanford University. He is currently Chair of the Department of Education at the University of Haifa. Among his many publications, his recent book Reclaiming Goodness: Education and the Spiritual Quest, received a 2001-2002 National Jewish Book Award.

New Lecturers
- Rabbi Sarah Benmoshe (Schechter graduate), Talmud
- Dr. Menachem Ben Shalom (Schechter graduate), Talmud
- Rabbi Avi Deutsch (Schechter graduate), Talmud
- Professor Avraham Shapira (Schechter graduate), Jewish Thought
- Rabbi Diana Villa (Schechter graduate), Jewish Law

New Rabbis...New Rabbinical Students
Four rabbis were ordained at Schechter’s 18th Ordination Ceremony held in Jerusalem on November 30th, 2005:
- Tamar Elad-Appelbaum, Rabbi of the Magen Avraham congregation in Omer
- Sarah Benmoshe, Lecturer, Talmud, Schechter Institute, PhD candidate in Talmud, Bar Ilan University
- Hagit Sabag-Israel, TALI rabbi in Ashkelon and Yavneh; founder of Bet Midrash for parents and teachers in TALI Ben Gurion School, Yavneh; Yahalom facilitator in Netivot and Beersheva Schools; Judaism instructor in IDF Officer’s Training Base
- Avinoam Sharon, former spiritual leader of Congregation Moreshet Yisrael, Jerusalem; editor and translator of Schechter’s Iyunim Shabbat, Torah Portion Commentaries

Four students will be ordained at the Ordination Ceremony in Jerusalem on November 29th, 2006:
- Jonathan Fine established a very successful family learning community in Jerusalem’s TALI Frankel School. He will be teaching the Arab-Jewish conflict at the Herzliya Interdisciplinary Center and at the Schechter Rabbinical Seminary.
- Hana Klebansky has established an “artistic” Bet Midrash in Jerusalem’s Kiryat Hayovel community center where she teaches Russian-speaking new immigrant women.
- Jean-Claude Suder will take up a position at the new Adath Shalom Est Conservative congregation in Paris where he has been interning for the past few years.
- Orit Veinboim chairs her village council at Moshav Beit Hanania where she provides spiritual counseling to the moshav’s aged and infirm and is working to establish a kehillah. She already conducts Bar-Bat Mitzvah classes and a monthly Rosh Hodesh class on the moshav.
TALI Rabbis take Conservative Judaism to the Schools
The TALI Rabbi program sent 21 TALI rabbis to 30 schools and 15 pre-schools, including eight Tel Aviv schools, where intensive programming for teachers, principals and children and their parents took place. Of the 21 rabbis, fifteen are Schechter Rabbinical Seminary students or graduates. Entering its fifth year in Fall 2006, the program reflects the ideal integration and application of Schechter education in the field, under the direct supervision of TALI Education Fund staff. Concentrating their efforts on classroom prayer, special programs for Jewish holidays and learning communities for parents and teachers, TALI rabbis made the Jewish experience come alive for TALI school communities throughout Israel.

Amitei Emet: Building Bridges of Jewish Pluralism
Amitei Emet, an inter-stream dialogue group dedicated to furthering religious pluralism in Israel convened its last group of “fellows” for study and dialogue in 2005. Since its inception in 2000, Amitei Emet has brought together a total of 34 “fellows” hailing from the Schechter Rabbinical Seminary (Conservative), Hebrew Union College (Reform), Yeshivat Ma’ale Gilboa (Orthodox) and Oranim College (secular). Through shared study of Jewish texts and passionate dialogue, these young leaders have broken new ground in strengthening religious pluralism in Israel.

Number of Overseas Rabbinical Students To Grow Significantly in 2006–2007
A required “year at Schechter” is an integral curriculum component of all rabbinical schools affiliated with the worldwide Conservative Movement. The year program in Israel immerses the overseas student in text study, Israeli culture and the Hebrew language, all essential experiences for these future spiritual leaders of Diaspora Jewry. In 2005–2006, twenty-five student rabbis from the Jewish Theological Seminary and University of Judaism learned at Schechter, with an additional six students from the Seminario Rabínico and other rabbinical seminaries taking classes.

• Forecast for 2006–2007: Thirty-three students from JTS and UJ are expected to study at Schechter, with a number of additional students from RRC and other rabbinical seminaries to join the group.

New Programs – New Initiatives
Hospital Chaplaincy Program: A First in Israel
The Schechter Rabbinical Seminary, in partnership with the National Association of Jewish Chaplains (NAJC), under the direction of Cecil Asekoff, has initiated a two-year course in pastoral care and crisis intervention – the first formal chaplaincy program in Israel – that will train seven candidates (including five Schechter rabbinical students and a rabbinical graduate) to work in the field. The concept of a rabbi as a spiritual and pastoral guide, trained in methods of psychological intervention, is virtually unknown in Israel. The course is a first step in remediying this situation, with its long-term goal aimed at making chaplaincy an integral part of the Israeli health care network.

The program is accredited by the Robert Wood Johnson Medical Center in New Jersey, with its staff person, Rabbi Zahara Davidowitz-Farkas, building the program and supervising all class work and fieldwork. The program, which rewards one unit of clinical pastoral care, is built upon a two-semester course on basic concepts integral to psychological intervention. In addition, students participate in two eight-week summer courses (2006 and 2007) totaling 200 hours, which combine classroom study and fieldwork in an Israeli hospital, senior citizen home and mental health hospital.

“We built a shared language over the few months we were together. We found the words to be able to approach death. The hospital focused on the body. We had the opportunity to focus on the spirit, to open up the inner self.”

Hani Kreutzer, Chaplaincy Intern, Oncology Dept., Jerusalem Hospital.
Mentoring in Masorti Kehillot
Rabbinical students worked closely with veteran rabbis, gaining “hands-on” experience in the communities of Omer and Kiryat Bialik with rabbis Michael Graetz, Tamar Elad-Appelbaum and Mauricio Balter. Students, together with their mentors, performed services, delivered sermons and prepared youngsters for Bar-Bat Mitzvah ceremonies.

Iyunei Shabbat Weekly Torah Portion Commentary
Iyunei Shabbat, a Torah Portion commentary published weekly by the Schechter Rabbinical Seminary in conjunction with The Rabbinical Assembly of Israel, the Masorti Movement in Israel and Masorti Olami, began electronic distribution to subscribers throughout the world in February 2006. Written by faculty members of the Schechter Institute and Schechter Rabbinical Seminary as well as Masorti rabbis and leading members of the community, the Dvar Torah appears in English and Hebrew with Spanish and French translations planned for the future.

Rabbinical Students Strengthen Communities Both North and South
Israeli and overseas rabbinical students traveled north in May to join Schechter graduate Rabbi Zvi Berger’s Masorti Family Minyan in Kfar Vradim for Shabbat. They helped lead services, taught classes and put on a riveting Melave Malka concert replete with instrumentals and song. Later in the month, students visited Kibbutz Ketura for joint study and a discussion with the branch of the Noam movement at the kibbutz. These weekend successes will serve as a model for additional community programming.

Rabbinical Seminary Online
The Schechter Rabbinical Seminary inaugurated its website in February 2006. www.schechter.org.il provides all academic information on the rabbinic program. In addition, the site features the weekly Torah Portion commentary, Iyunei Shabbat, as well as articles and commentaries on the holidays, life cycle events and contemporary Jewish issues. Updated weekly with lectures and events taking place at Schechter, the site will soon host discussion groups and forums on timely topics related to Conservative/Masorti life in Israel.

The War in Lebanon
During the summer of Israel’s northern war, Schechter faculty, students and staff turned their attention to helping fellow Israelis.

Many in the Jerusalem area opened their homes to families from the North, giving the war-weary a few days of respite and quiet from the sirens and attacks that were the norm.

The Schechter Graduate School and Rabbinical Seminary offered free lectures and walking tours of Jerusalem to “northerners” (Hebrew-speaking and Russian-speaking) who were being hosted in the Jerusalem area.

Schechter graduates Rabbis Barry Schlesinger (Congregation Moreshet Avraham, Jerusalem) and Paul Shrell-Fox (Schechter lecturer and rabbi of Congregation Ya’ar Ramot, Jerusalem) together with Rabbi Shlomo Tucker, Associate Dean of the Schechter Rabbinical Seminary, worked hand-in-hand with Rabbi Mauricio Balter of Congregation Kiryat Bialik (near Haifa) on implementing a program to take Balter’s beleaguered congregants and other residents of the north out of rocket range. Altogether, nine separate day-long outings took place in Jerusalem for over 1000 residents from Kiryat Bialik, including families from the Bedouin and Druze communities. This Masorti Movement cooperative effort will be recorded as one of many small gestures that made a great difference in the lives of thousands involved in this latest conflict.
Child-Parent workshop at the TALI Ofek School, Karmiel

TALI Education Fund

A young participant enjoys the workshop at the TALI Ofek School

Torah Dedication Ceremony at TALI Bayit V’Gan School, Jerusalem
Highlights 2005-2006

30% TALI Growth
TALI Jewish education continues to undergo rapid expansion as increasing numbers of parents, principals, city councils and education boards are opting to become TALI schools. In 2005-06, 18 new schools and pre-schools joined TALI, and in 2006-07, the network will expand again to include nine additional elementary schools and 27 pre-schools. The TALI network has grown by 30% in the last two years.

Training and Leadership Development
- 17 pedagogic counselors worked with teachers and principals in 49 TALI schools, providing resource materials and helping more than 750 teachers and principals implement the TALI curriculum; twelve of the counselors are Schechter M.A. students or graduates
- Six early childhood counselors worked with teachers in 74 TALI pre-schools on curriculum and implementation
- 1032 hours of Teachers’ Room Workshops and Seminars were conducted for 700 teachers in 33 TALI schools. Lecturers, many coming from the Schechter Institute, taught classes designed to enrich the teachers’ Jewish backgrounds and build a common basic vocabulary of Jewish knowledge. “The Jewish Table,” a new workshop theme, was introduced with topics that dealt with “Kashrut and Spirituality,” blessings over food, fasting, food and Tzedakah, feasts in the Bible and more
- 55 TALI principals and lead staff (three classes) learned at the Schechter Institute as part of the Leadership Development Program which included a full day of classes once a week and two professional seminars
- A total of 133 principals and lead staff have completed the Leadership Development program since its inception in 2001, with more than half of them going on for an M.A. degree at the Schechter Institute

Informal Education
- 78 informal education activities were presented to 7,000 TALI pupils and thousands of participating parents:
  - 47 TALI Parent-Child Workshops
  - 13 two-day Bar-Bat Mitzvah Seminars
  - 18 “Pinat Shorashim” Seminars at Kibbutz Gezer

TALI Textbooks
- Five National Service Volunteers, ages 18-19, worked for TALI this past year, marketing and facilitating TALI informal education activities
- 15,000 monthly “hits” were recorded for the TALI Torah Portion of the Week that is hosted on Galim, a website for elementary schools run by Hebrew University’s Snunit, the largest educational internet gateway in Israel
- Six new TALI textbooks were published: Man and God in the Weekly Torah Portion, Vols. 1 and 2, 6th grade; Holidays and Festivals, Vol. 1, 2nd grade; Bible Stories for Young Children, pre-school and 1st grade; Together in Prayer, pre-school and grades 1-2; To Give with All Your Heart, a curriculum for 7th-9th graders on organ transplants/donation, developed in partnership with ADI (the Israeli association for organ donations); Ethical Mitzvot in Pirkey Avot for Diaspora Day Schools, piloted at United Synagogue Day School, Toronto
- A total of 16 TALI textbooks have been published including a series of five Torah Weekly Portion Textbooks for grades 2-6 which was completed in 2006
- More than 10,000 textbooks were sold to TALI schools and Day Schools overseas
- In preparation: The World of Prayer, a Siddur and accompanying workbook for teachers and students, 3rd-6th grade; a new series on Holidays and Festivals, with a volume planned for each grade, 1-6

Pre-School Notables
- 68 “Journey Through the Jewish Calendar” sessions of this new pre-school program were held on a monthly basis in 19 pre-school and 1st grade classes;
- 50 “Rosh Chodesh Tunes” workshops which

The Numbers:

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2005-2006
- TALI Schools
- TALI Pre-schools
Total: 135

New TALI Textbooks
introduce prayer through music, were conducted for children and parents in 15 TALI pre-schools and early elementary grades;

• **Four training seminars** for 35 pre-school teachers were held on *Between Man and His Fellow Man, Art and Judaism in Pre-School,* and *Pilgrimage to Jerusalem*

• **Three “Children’s Ark Corners”** were installed in pre-schools in Hadera, Ra’anana and Rosh Ha’ayin where Friday Kabbalat Shabbat services were celebrated.

### The TALI Rabbi

21 TALI rabbis worked in 30 schools and 15 pre-schools on a regular basis, including eight schools in Tel Aviv.

The scope of the TALI rabbi outreach:

• 10,000 children and over 6,000 parents

• Eight learning communities for parents and teachers, including Yotzer Or in Jerusalem and a new project in Tel Aviv’s Midreshet Iyun study center

• Dozens of school community Tu B’shvat Seders, Megilla readings and group Bat Mitzvah celebrations

### Prizes

The TALI Bet Hinuch Junior High School in Jerusalem won the Ministry of Education National Prize for Israeli Cultural Heritage. Nurit Eldar, principal of the school and a Schechter M.A. graduate, received the prize in May 2006 at a ceremony at the Bible Lands Museum.

### New Programs...New Initiatives

**TALI Gains Ground in Tel Aviv**

TALI has made a significant breakthrough in "secular" Tel Aviv. The TALI Education Fund (TEF) established an outreach center at Tel Aviv’s Midreshet Iyun, which began to work intensively with six Tel Aviv schools to create a school environment in which Jewish culture has a place, in line with the TALI pluralistic approach. Three TALI rabbis (all Schechter-ordained rabbis) provide teacher training, parent-teacher learning communities, family education, curricular guidance and classroom learning. Three pedagogical counselors began working with school staff on integrating Jewish studies into the schools. Midreshet Iyun offered a series of ten adult-education courses that were attended by a total of 200 participants. One-time “study happenings” drew a similar number of students.

**Encouraging Success:** During the school year, two additional Tel Aviv schools requested TALI Jewish learning programs. A TALI rabbi began work in the schools, one of which will officially join the TALI Tel Aviv project in September, bringing the number of TALI schools in Tel Aviv to eight.

**Twenty Tel Aviv Principals Join TALI Judaism Course**

A course on Jewish Studies that met ten times during the school year was attended by twenty Tel Aviv high school principals. The course introduced the educators to the value of Jewish culture and life in the school community through high-level Jewish studies courses. Plans call for an exchange program between educators from the U.S and Tel Aviv.
**Principals Course: Forecast 2006-07**

This course will serve as a model for TALI strategic growth in new areas of the country. Similar courses, in cooperation with municipalities and the Ministry of Education, will be conducted in Rishon LeZion, the Upper Galilee and the region from Nazareth to Bet Shean.

**TALI Bat Mitzvah Program Pilots in Tel Aviv**

A new Bat Mitzvah program was piloted in two Tel Aviv schools, Tel Nordau and the School of the Arts. A group of fifty girls was mentored by two TALI women rabbis on entering adulthood, the importance of ceremony and Mitzvah, and equality between the sexes. Mothers joined the program for two concluding sessions where blessings and the basics of participation in the Torah service were studied. The program culminated with a group Bat Mitzvah Ceremony.

**TALI Enters Special Education Schools**

A special TALI education program adapted to the needs of troubled youth debuted in 2005-06 at the Ahava Residential Village near Haifa. The institution is home to 200 children (grades 1-12) who by court order have been placed with foster families at the residence. The village presented unique programming challenges to TEF. A TALI school rabbi worked intensively with school staff, the children and fifteen foster families living on the premises. Foster families joined learning communities and met individually with the rabbi.

**Forecast 2006-07:** The village school has decided to adopt the TALI principles and curriculum. In September a pedagogic counselor began working with school staff. The special education school is part of a network of sixty institutions around Israel. TEF intends to replicate the Ahava model at similar residential school frameworks.

**TALI “International”**

TALI Education Fund educators traveled by invitation to a number of Jewish communities around the world to share educational tools and advise on the establishment of new TALI schools. Activity included:

- **Paris:** A TALI school is being established by Schechter graduate Rabbi Rivon Krygier and members of his congregation Adath Shalom. TEF will be translating a number of TALI textbooks into French. Plans are also underway to establish a TALI school in Jerusalem based on learning materials in Hebrew and French.

- **Mexico City:** Dr. Eitan Chikli, Director General of the TALI Education Fund, traveled to Mexico City where he presented two workshops on TALI education to educators and leaders of the Jewish community, and learned about the eight Jewish Day schools currently operating in the Mexican capital. Working with a Jewish community inter-school council (in formation), TALI will be involved in creating specialized materials in Spanish and organizing seminars and workshops to be conducted both in Israel and in Mexico for school staff. Three of the eight schools are interested in pursuing a more far-reaching relationship with TALI. The depth and scope of this exchange will be discussed in the future.

- **Chile:** Tirza Rotkovitch, Director of Educational Resource Development, traveled to Santiago where she introduced TALI textbooks and their use to teachers in a week-long training seminar. Additional in-service training seminars are planned for teachers in a number of South American Jewish communities including Brazil and Argentina.

- **Detroit, Michigan:** Bat Ella Birnbaum, TALI early childhood musician and group facilitator, was invited to Detroit in March 2006 for a four-day schedule of Jewish music workshops for children and parents, organized by TEF and the Jewish Federation of Detroit Alliance for Jewish Education.

**TALI Core Curriculum to Extend to High School Level**

TALI is preparing a core Jewish Studies curriculum for grades 7-12, following the success of the TALI grade 1-6 curriculum introduced in the Fall 2004. A committee comprised of professional teams from the Ministry of Education, the TALI Education Fund and the Schechter Institute began work in 2006. The new syllabus, combined with the Ministry of Education Set of Directives that were published in 2003, will guide the expansion of TALI at the secondary school level.
TALI Schools and the Northern War

On September 3rd more than 6,000 pupils in 21 TALI schools across northern Israel returned to their studies. Their long-awaited summer vacation turned into a nightmare. A barrage of lethal Hezbollah missiles rained down on their towns and neighborhoods. TALI educational staff fear that emotional damage to the children could run deep and therapy programs are being prepared for the school year.

Karmiel, Western Galilee: Rami Shteindel was lucky. Hezbollah missiles blew out the windows of his Karmiel home and his son was wounded in the leg by shards of glass. But it could have been a lot worse.

“The houses on either side of us took direct hits from missiles,” recounts Shteindel, TALI coordinator for Jewish studies at the Irisim Elementary School in Karmiel and an M.A. student at the Schechter Institute and TALI Educational Leadership Program in Jerusalem. “The street looks like a war zone.”

90% of Children Taken Out of Missile Range

“During the conflict, about 90% of the children were taken south out of missile range by their parents,” said Natalie Grunstadt, Principal of the Irisim School, which has 632 pupils. “The teachers stayed in contact with their children through e-mail and forums on the school’s website. One of our students lost her father in action off the coast of Lebanon in the early days of the war. Everybody else in the community seems to be safe.”

Grunstadt, together with Aviva Hirschkowitz, Principal of Karmiel’s TALI Ofek School, are anticipating emotional problems for the more than 800 children that attend the two TALI schools. “We’ve been conducting workshops,” said Grunstadt, “for my school’s 45 teachers based on the experiences of children in Kiryat Shmona, which has been under missile attack for years.”

Both schools are in the process of devising a program which will enable children to speak about their anxieties, while the teacher’s task will be to identify those pupils suffering more severely from post-trauma syndrome so that they can be given individual therapy.

Judaism and Prayer Provide Strength

“We are not quite sure what we will find when we greet the kids on September 3rd, says Shteindel. But of one thing I am certain. At a time like this, the TALI program gives us, and especially the children, greater emotional strength and a deeper bond with Israel.” Even before the war, Shteindel had begun to introduce the concept of prayer into his classroom. “TALI has been a godsend,” he says.

TALI Regba: Seven Miles South of Lebanon

The story is similar at the Regba Regional Elementary School, which is located in the southern suburbs of Nahariya, about seven miles south of the Lebanese border and serves the villages in the region. About 350 children are enrolled in the school, a TALI affiliate for two years.

Discussing the situation with the teachers, Daniela Trester, Principal of the school, found morale to be very low. “People are pessimistic because the threat of Hezbollah has not been fully removed.”

“But we cannot pass this pessimism onto the children,” she added. “It is a delicate situation. We must be attentive to the children’s emotional needs, but as adults, we cannot assume children will share our anxieties. Trester notes that, as part of the TALI program this year, morning prayers will be introduced into the Regba school curriculum. “This is very good timing,” she says. “I think prayer and religious faith can help the children overcome their anxieties and make them emotionally stronger.”

Lea Alon, the TALI Coordinator for Jewish Studies at Regba, agrees. “Living in Israel is never easy,” says Alon who is currently studying in the TALI Leadership and M.A. program at the Schechter Institute in Jerusalem. “You have to know Jewish sources, beliefs and history if you are to fully understand why the Jewish people are rooted in this land. I think the TALI program fulfils this need.”
Midreshet Yerushalayim youth counselors arriving for the opening of the Kiev Cultural Center.

“Heritage Trails” Friday excursion to Jerusalem’s Southern Wall excavations.

MILI “Individual Competitors” Game in Jerusalem.

Lighting Sabbath candles in the new community school of Donetsk, Ukraine.
Celebrating 15! Midreshet Yerushalayim in Israel and Eastern Europe

Midreshet Yerushalayim celebrates fifteen years of Jewish outreach in 2006. Established in 1991 in response to the massive wave of Russian-speaking immigrants reaching Israel’s shores and to the “lifting of the Iron Curtain” in the former Soviet Union, Midreshet Yerushalayim answered the spiritual needs of these newly emerging Jewish communities searching to re-build a connection with their Jewish roots. Midreshet Yerushalayim, with its open and intellectual approach to Judaism, provided just the right educational and spiritual framework for the Russian-speaking community. In the past fifteen years, thousands of Jews in scores of communities throughout Israel and the former Soviet Union have found a Jewish “home” in the educational life of Midreshet Yerushalayim programs.

We salute founding directors Gila Katz (Ukraine) and Dr. Yair Paz (Israel) for their vision and untiring devotion to a cause that has strengthened the Jewish People worldwide.

Midreshet Yerushalayim – Israel

Highlights 2005-2006

Rabbi Yossie Goldman

Elected Chairman of Executive Committee

Rabbi Yossie Goldman, the Associate International Vice President of Hillel, Director of Hillel Israel and founder of Hillel in the former Soviet Union, was elected Chairman of the Midreshet Yerushalayim Executive Committee. Rabbi Goldman received his ordination from the Jewish Theological Seminary, and served as a pulpit rabbi in Sacramento CA, before making aliyah with his family in 1985. His efforts over the last twenty years toward re-vitalizing Jewish communities in the former Soviet Union are widely recognized. We wish Rabbi Goldman much success in his new position and thank Prof. Edith Frankel, out-going Chairwoman, for four years of dedicated service.

Prizes

Dr. Victor Radutsky, lecturer in Israeli literature and culture at the Jerusalem branch of Midreshet Yerushalayim, received the Ze’ev Jabotinsky Ukraine-Israel Friendship Association Award of Distinction for strengthening ties between Israel and Ukraine. The award was presented in the presence of the First Secretary of the Ukrainian Embassy, Mr. Andrei Bogdanov.

The Numbers

Forty-five Jewish education programs operated throughout Israel from Eilat to the Galilee reaching close to 1300 Russian-speaking immigrants of all ages. The year-long programs included:

- Thirty academic courses in sixteen cities throughout Israel for 750 new immigrants
- Nineteen “Bible in Hand” field trips taught by Schechter rabbinical and M.A. students as part of the weekly Land of Israel seminar series
- Eleven MILI clubs with a membership of 500 young adults, including a new club in Yavneh and a new “Junior MILI Club” in Tel Aviv for teenagers
- Three MILI national competitions for Chanukah, Purim and Independence Day
- Four “Heritage Trail” (Shvilei Moreshet) year-long seminars for Jerusalem high school and university students

MILI: A Jewish Outreach Success Story

MILI (Hebrew acronym for Midreshet Yerushalayim for Creative Study), now in its fifth year, attracts hundreds of young Russians (aged 20-35) to competitions, based on a game played in their native Russia, which solves intellectual trivia riddles in small groups. Through the MILI innovation of adding “Jewish Content” to the questions, the game has scored great success in bringing large numbers of young Russian-speaking immigrants closer to their Judaism.

Today, eleven MILI clubs, including a national league of Junior MILI Clubs (over 100 participants aged 13-20) operate in Jerusalem, Rishon LeZion, Yavneh, Haifa, Karmiel, Tel Aviv, Ashdod and Eilat. National competitions for Chanukah, Purim and Independence Day drew 150-300 participants each. **Forecast 2006-2007:** MILI is laying the groundwork to open clubs in Kfar Saba, Petach Tikvah, Beer Sheva and Upper Nazareth. Plans are also underway to form a “Southern MILI League” which would encompass clubs in cities from Beer Sheva to Eilat.

Learning Centers with High Academic Standards

Midreshet Yerushalayim attracted more than 750 participants in thirty Jewish studies courses in sixteen cities including Jerusalem, Tel Aviv, Bat Yam, Ma’aleh Adumim, Ashdod, Kiryat Bialik, Karmiel, Nesher, Upper Nazareth, Rehovot, and Or Akiva, with new...
centers opening in Haifa, Beersheva, Netanya, Karnei Shomron and Kiryat Arba. The “Bible in Hand” lecture-field trip series in Tel Aviv was so successful that an additional class opened in Or Akiva, as well as a Weekly Torah Portion class in Tel Aviv.

New Programs – New Initiatives

A Bet Midrash for MILI Questions
The key to MILI’s success lies in the formulation of the questions used in the games. To ensure “quality control” of the Jewish content questions as well as “grow” the data bank for these extremely complex questions, a Bet Midrash-like methodological center has been established, with Rabbi Reuven Resnick, Schechter graduate, supervising operations. Working with Rabbi Resnick, a team of MILI coordinators has formulated some 5,000 questions, including 2,000 on Jewish/Israeli related topics. All ten MILI game facilitators and coordinators met monthly in Jerusalem for sessions designed to show them how to best exploit the new data bank’s resources. Rabbi Resnick, who is fluent in Russian, travels extensively to oversee MILI activities throughout the country. In addition, he is working to strengthen a Russian-speaking Masorti congregation in Ashkelon.

MILI Spreading to the Diaspora
MILI Jewish learning will soon be exported to communities in the Diaspora, thanks to a special year-long course that will train MILI coordinators and game facilitators. The ambitious project will bring fifteen young Russian-speakers from Russia, Ukraine, Germany and Kazakhstan to Jerusalem for a year-long MILI leadership course at the Schechter Institute. The course, to be run by Dr. Yair Paz, Director of Midreshet Yerushalayim, and Dr. Rafi Kassimov, Midreshet Yerushalayim lecturer and Schechter rabbinical student, will commence in September 2006.

www.MILI.org.il “Hits” on the Rise
Since the launching of the Midreshet Yerushalayim Russian language website, www.mili.org.il, in January 2004, monthly site “hits” have grown to over 7,000, including over 500 postings to the “Ask the Rabbi” column, managed by Schechter graduate, Rabbi Michael Kovsan. The site is a popular source for information on Judaism, Jewish heritage and customs for Russian-speakers around the world and includes a weekly Torah portion commentary, academic articles, and lively discussion groups.

Elsewhere in Midreshet…

“Heritage Trails”: High Road to Jewish Discovery
“Heritage Trails” (Shvilei Moreshet), completed a second year of innovative programming for Jerusalem’s Russian-speaking high school and university students. The initiative of Michael Korol, an immigrant from St. Petersburg, the program offers university students pre-site lectures at Schechter, followed by Friday excursions to “off-the-beaten-track” archaeological and geological sites. Twelfth-grade students learned about the Holocaust by archiving documents in Russian at Yad Vashem, complemented with lectures on Jewish traditions. Two groups of tenth-graders living at the Goldstein Youth Village in Jerusalem, worked in small groups around a computer, collecting materials for discussion that relate both to the Holocaust and religion.

Strengthening Connections with Kehillot
A number of Midreshet Yerushalayim programs work closely with Masorti kehillot. Kehillat Etz Hayyim in Ashdod, Kehillat HaKerem in Karmiel, Kehillat Adat Shalom Emanuel in Rehovot and Kehillat Eshel Avraham in Beersheva host Midreshet Yerushalayim programs which in turn introduce new immigrants to Masorti congregational life.
Midreshet Yerushalayim – Ukraine

Highlights 2005-06

The Numbers
• 1,000 children and their families participated in Midreshet Yerushalayim
• Jewish learning, the only significant non-Orthodox Jewish education in Ukraine, through 13 TALI education frameworks, including:
  • 9 TALI Sunday Schools in Kiev, Chernowitz, Munkatsh, Khust, Berdichev, Priluki, Vinnitsa, Kirovograd and Donetsk
  • The Chernowitz TALI Day School with over 300 pupils
  • 2 schools receiving pedagogical support (Chirkasi and Nikolaiyev)
  • The TALI Solomon high school program in Kiev
  • 2 summer camps (Ramah-Ukraine, Ramah-Ukraine Family Camp)
  • 60 Jewish studies teachers attended an 8-day teachers’ training seminar (outside Kiev)
  • 4 pre-Passover model seders for teachers, students and parents
  • High Holiday services planned for three Jewish communities

New Initiatives – New Programs

New Cultural Center in Kiev
The gala inauguration of Kiev’s new Midreshet Yerushalayim Cultural Center took place in January 2006. Over seventy people from Ukraine and abroad attended the opening, including representatives of the JDC from Israel, heads of Jewish organizations in Ukraine, parents and children, local journalists and students from the Faculty of Judaic Studies at Solomon University, Kiev.

The center, which is run in cooperation with Mercaz-Masorti Olami, sponsors a community school of 100 children and parents, a Kabbalat Shabbat program, a Jewish cinematique, a Bet Midrash program and courses on Jewish Culture and Jewish Family Values. Diana Gold, Director of the Center, is a graduate of Midreshet Yerushalayim’s Chernowitz Day School, veteran counselor at the Ramah-Ukraine camp and a teacher at the Kiev community school for the last six years. (see page 9).

Forecast 2006-07: Four additional programs are scheduled to open in Fall 2006 including an adult Bar-Bat Mitzvah class; a Judaism in the Home course, a series of interfaith sessions on the Holocaust to combat growing anti-semitism and a class for physically challenged residents. Dr. Betsy Gidwitz, from Chicago, an expert on the FSU, visited the center in April 2006; Rabbi Yossie Goldman, Executive Committee Chairman, visited the Center in May 2006.

Schechter Student Rabbi to Join Kiev Center
Julia Rubinstein-Solomon, Schechter rabbinical student, will work with the Jewish community in Kiev for eight weeks in 2006-07, commencing with the High Holiday period. Julia immigrated to Israel from Moscow in 1992. She was a camp counselor at Ramah-Ukraine and earned an M.A. from the Schechter Institute.

Two New Community Schools Open in Kirovograd and Donetsk
In response to demand from families who had attended Ramah-Ukraine’s family camp, new Community Schools were opened in September 2005 in Kirovograd (seventy parents and children) and in Donetsk (105 parents and children). The teaching staff, led by center director, Aleksandr (Sasha) Ivashchenko (see page 9), is professional and young with a good background in Jewish Studies. More than 20,000 Jews live in the greater Donetsk area. Many are looking for a pluralistic alternative to Chabad education which is the only other Jewish school system in Donetsk.

Forecast 2006-07: A community school based on the Donetsk model is being planned in Odessa, in response to parent requests.

TALI–Solomon Teen Program in Kiev
TALI Solomon is Midreshet Yerushalayim’s innovative program that brings together high school students from Kiev and nearby towns to attend Jewish studies classes at Solomon University, Kiev. The program prepares these youth to enroll at Solomon University for future leadership roles in the Jewish community. Prof. Leonid Mazikh, dean of the Faculty of Judaic Studies at Solomon University, serves as the academic coordinator of the program. Thirty-one students are presently enrolled in the program. Six program graduates have enrolled in the Jewish Studies program.

The Chicago–Ukraine Connection
Rabbi Michael Siegel and congregants of Chicago’s Anshe Emet Synagogue have taken the lead, together with Dr. Betsy Gidwitz and the JUF-Federation, in support of Midreshet Yerushalayim programs in Ukraine. Over the summer, Anshe Emet made a generous donation of over 100 tallilot to Kiev’s new community center. On the north side of Chicago, Rabbi Vernon Kurtz and congregants of North Suburban Synagogue Beth El, Highland Park, IL, for many years have played an instrumental role in facilitating Jewish education for the young of Berdichev. The school’s fifty children meet each week for experiential Jewish learning and many attend the Ramah-Ukraine summer camp. Polina Grinberg, director of the school, reports that “there is not one Jewish child living in Berdichev who does not take part in the community school activities.”
Ramah Camps

Camp Ramah-Ukraine, established in 1992, has acquired an outstanding reputation for providing a positive two-week educational and social experience in the countryside for Jewish children and families in Ukraine. Informal Jewish study, religious services, as well as cultural and recreational activities conducted in a scenic setting provide a wonderful model of Jewish living and a welcome break from the harsh economic conditions that characterize life for most Ukrainian Jews.

Ramah-Ukraine Family Camp

Camp Ramah-Ukraine held its third annual Family Camp for children, aged 6-10, and their parents. The 100 “campers of all ages” were brought closer together and closer to their Judaism through the theme “In God’s Image.” The special prayer for “The Peace of Israel” was learned by all campers and recited each morning as was a special plea for the release of Israeli soldiers held captive in Lebanon. The experience of the entire family, living in a Jewish community twenty-four hours a day, plays a vital role in forming Jewish identity, bringing parents and children closer together, and prompting them to observe Jewish ceremonies once they have returned to their homes.

Camp Ramah-Ukraine

For fourteen summer seasons, Camp Ramah-Ukraine has provided Jewish experiential education which has left an indelible mark of Jewish identity on thousands of children and young adults from throughout the Ukraine. This year, 200 children and 27 staff members (seven coming from Israel) explored the wonders of The Torah, learning trop (cantillation), how to open and close a Torah, the blessings, and how a Torah is written.

Midreshet Yerushalayim – Hungary

Visiting Faculty

Midreshet Yerushalayim brings visiting faculty to the University of Jewish Studies to conduct intensive seminars in subjects germane to the professional development of Hungary’s future educators, rabbis and community leaders. This year, Prof. Shmuel Glick, Associate Professor of Talmud and Rabbinics at the Schechter Institute of Jewish Studies, traveled to Budapest twice, where he taught Jewish education and Rabbinic Literature.

The Rabbi Arnold (z”l) and Noemie Turetsky Scholarship Fund

Marking the second anniversary of the passing of beloved Midreshet Yerushalayim educator and supporter, Rabbi Arnold Turetsky z”l, the fund successfully raised substantial funds to support the student and faculty exchanges that take place between the University of Jewish Studies in Budapest and the Schechter Institute.

A Lesson in Tzedakah

“100 years ago a Jewish family left for the United States from Zhivotiv, a shtetl between Biela Tserkov, Vinnitsa, Uman and Zhashkov. The American-born son of that family, Ben Teitel, left funds which have supported Camp Ramah-Ukraine since the first session fourteen years ago. As the grandson of that family, I hope that this personal example might lead to a similar gift 100 years from now from the children that are now spending their summers in Camp Ramah-Ukraine.”

Gerald Cook, Detroit Michigan, a founding supporter of Camp Ramah-Ukraine
Midreshet Yerushalayim

July 26, 2006

Dear Yair,

Although I sincerely hope that calm will be restored in the North before I arrive there, I am not sure that this will happen. Likewise, there is no certainty that such a situation will not be repeated in some way in the future. It is therefore important to emphasize Midreshet Yerushalayim’s presence in this area, which is suffering from enemy shelling.

We must demonstrate our identification with the population in a concrete manner, for they are not only undergoing physical danger but they also feel alienated with thoughts that the situation is somehow “unfair.” They feel like soldiers on the battlefront while we are, in their view, (safely) situated in the home front...

I feel it is vitally important that I go to one of the cities suffering katyusha attacks and show our presence there.

The message that Conservative Judaism in Israel must convey is that we are willing to take part in the complex reality that is Israel, addressing ourselves to all sectors of the population, perhaps with our focus on the weakest...

I believe that Olim from the FSU, especially those with whom I have become acquainted in the past, will appreciate this step and will be eager to join the new Jewish studies groups.

I am presently looking for an apartment in one of the northern cities, including Afula, in order to get there as quickly as possible.

Sincerely,

Michael Rivkin

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“War Games” for Haifa MILI

When war broke out in Israel’s north in July, there were some young Haifa residents who were unwilling to alter their schedule, in spite of the rain of Katyusha rockets falling on Israel’s Mediterranean port city. Haifa MILI club members were in the middle of their weekly Thursday game when the first Katyusha fell not far from their center. Despite the bomb, sirens and mounting anxiety, all decided to play the game to its conclusion.

“I’ve been in contact with all the participants,” said the program’s director Yulya Vorobyov, who immigrated to Israel in 1996 from Odessa, Ukraine. “And I’m pleased to report that nobody was hurt or suffered damage to their home. Most of our students left the region although some are soldiers who are still inside Lebanon. We pray for their safety.”

Vorobyov spent the war in her Haifa home despite the fact that several missiles fell close to her home on Mount Carmel.

“Studying Jewish texts is especially important for Russian-speaking new immigrants,” explained Vorobyov. “Many newcomers from the former Soviet Union came here primarily to improve their economic standard of living. So especially after a war like this they are likely to ask themselves: what am I doing here? Why didn’t I go to North America or Germany? Knowledge of our Jewish heritage can fill this vacuum.”

Yulya Vorobyov (wearing orange shirt) with her MILI club in Haifa
1. Redemption in Bondage: The Women Workers Movement in Mandatory Palestine, 1920–1939, Dr. Bat-Sheva Stern
2. Jewish and Israeli Theatre, Dr. Sara Strasbour-Dayan
3. Insight Israel: The View From Schechter, Second Series, Prof. David Golinkin
4. NASHIM, Volume 11, Yemenite Jewish Women
6. Talmud Ha-Igud: BT Berakhot Chapter I, with Comprehensive Commentary, Prof. Moshe Benovitz
7. To Learn and To Teach #3: “Women in the Minyan and as Shelihot Tzibbur,” Rabbis Monique Susskind Goldberg and Diana Villa
8. NASHIM, Volume 10, Women’s Spirituality
11. Prof. Ze’ev Falk Memorial Volume, ed. Prof. M.D. Herr et al
12. Za’akat Dalot: Halakhic Solutions for the Agunot of our Time, Rabbis Monique Susskind Goldberg and Diana Villa
13. Kuntress Ha-Teshuvot He-hadash: A Bibliographic Thesaurus of Responsa Literature, Vol. 1, ed. Prof. Shmuel Glick
Conservative Congregations Study with the Best of Schechter
The Rebecca Goldstein z”l and Rabbi Noah Golinkin z”l Educational Outreach Program is "building bridges through learning" in congregations throughout Israel.

June 2006  Tikvun Leil Shavuot at Shevet Achim, Jerusalem: Dr. Sara Strasbourg-Dayan, Is the Torah the Religion of Israel? and Fuchsgberg Center for Conservative Judaism, Jerusalem: Rabbi Dr. Einat Ramon, Halakhah and Agaddah as seen by H.N. Bialik and Abraham Joshua Heschel; Kehilat Adath Shalom Emanuel, Rehovot: Rabbi Monique Susskind Goldberg. The Agunah Problem

May 2006  Kehillat Ramat Ishai: Dr. Yair Paz, Jerusalem Day and Ayala Paz, On the Book of Ruth; Kehillat Shira Hadash, Arad: Rabbi Dr. Harvey Meirovich, Denominations in Judaism; Netzah Yisrael, Ashkelon: Prof. Moshe Benovitz, Spiritual Cleansing (Tikkun Hanefesh) and Tikkun Olam; Hod V’Hadar, Kfar Saba: Prof. Shmuel Glick, History of Marriage and Mourning Customs

April 2006  Kehillat Ramat Ishai: Dr. Ari Ackerman, Jewish Thought in the Middle Ages-The Rambam and Rabbi Yehuda Halev

March 2006  Moreshet Avraham, Jerusalem: Dr. Shula Laderman, The Exodus in Midrash and Art; Kehillat Kiyrat Bialik: Dr. Shula Laderman, Purim as Expressed in Jewish Art

February 2006  Moreshet Avraham, Jerusalem: Dr. Yossi Turner, two-part series on Theology and the Holocaust; Kehillat Kiyrat Bialik: Dr. Yossi Turner, Problems with Revelation in Modern Jewish Thinking

December 2005  Ramot Zion, Jerusalem: Dr. Ari Ackerman, two-part series on The Jewish Experience in the Philosophy of Abraham J. Heschel and The Philosophy of Jewish Law and the Conservative Movement

Schechter: Popular Venue for Public Lectures
The Schechter Institute hosted a number of lectures and conferences throughout the year that were open to the public:
• Encounter with Jerusalem artist, Asher Dahan, graduate of Schechter’s “Bet Midrash for Artists” June 2005
• The Annual Sarah Becker Frank Conference on the Status of Women in Israel, held at the Van Leer Institute in Jerusalem, marked the publication of Za’okit Dalot: Halakhic Solutions for the Agunot of our Time, May 2006
• Screening of "From the Bible to the Cinema: The Story of Bat Yiftach," by Einnat Kapach, Schechter M.A. student and cinematographer, May 2006
• Annual Nechama Leibowitz Memorial Lecture, with Rabbi Yitzhak Reiner, May 2006
• Holocaust Memorial Day Service and Megillat Hashoah reading, Prof. David Golinkin, “Responsa from the Holocaust,” April 2006
• Annual Prof. Saul Lieberman Memorial Lecture, with Prof. Menahem I. Kahana, chaired by Prof. Shamma Friedman, April 2006
• Lunch ‘N Learn with Dr. Alon Tal, Schechter Rabbinical School Board Member, “Zionism and Ecology,” March 2006
• Musical Lunch ‘N Learn “Judaism in Music” performance by the Judaism in the Arts students, of the Arts M.A. students of Prof. Andre Haidu, February 2006
• "Schechter Artists’ House" Opening with works by Judaism and the Arts M.A. students, coordinated by Dr. Jo Milgrom, January 2005
• Brenda Kaufman-Berman Memorial Lecture, Prof. David Golinkin, “Medicine in Jewish Tradition: Forbidden, Permitted or a Mitzvah?” January 2006
• Lunch ‘N Learn with Prof. Shmuel Glick, “The Minutiae of Hanukkah Customs,” December 2005
• The First Annual Sarah Becker Frank Conference on the Status of Women in Israel, “Forming a New Social Order: Women and Whomhood Shaping the Yishuv Society,” was organized by Dr. Bat–Sheva Stern and Prof. Renée Levine Melammed, Schechter Institute, December 2005
• Lunch ‘N Learn, with Prof. Michael Chernik, Hebrew Union College, "The Biblical Canon as a Theological Subject of Thought for the Sages," December 2005
• Gallery talk with Dr. Shula Laderman, "Illuminated Jewish Manuscripts of the Middle Ages," November 2005
• 10th Anniversary Rabin Memorial Day Ceremony, November 2005
• Shlomo Carlebach Celebration commemorating the rabbi’s yahrzeit, with Dr. David Frankel and Prof. David Golinkin, November 2005
• Opening of academic year with Dr. Shula Laderman on “The Duality of Eve,” and Dr. Bat–Sheva Stern on “From the Fires of Love and the Fires of Malaria: Biographies of Women Leadership in Palestine,” October 2004

TALI Education Enhances “Learning Happening” for First Time
Organizers of “Hakhel,” Israel’s largest Jewish learning gathering which takes place every Sukkot in the center of the country, asked the TALI Education Fund to present its educational materials. Dina Thaler, TALI teacher and counselor, held a workshop using TALI’s Friends Across the Sea, a textbook that addresses Israeli-Diaspora relations for elementary school age children. TALI Rabbi Elisha Wolfin facilitated a session on “Creating a Social Judaism.” Schechter M.A. faculty members Dr. Yossi Turner, Dr. Einat Ramon and Dr. Guy Miron taught a session on “The Question of Political Sovereignty and the Unity of the Nation: Historical and Philosophic Aspects.”

Women’s Study Days:
Seven Years of Superb Outreach
Over 300 women made their way to Jerusalem and the Schechter Institute to participate in the 7th annual National Women’s Study Day held in June 2006, with special guests, Gloria Cohen, President of Women’s League for Conservative Judaism and Evelyn Seelig, past president, attending. This year’s theme, Shabbat: Great Grandma and Heschel, was taught in Hebrew, English, Russian and Spanish. Sponsored by the Schechter Institute, Women’s League for Conservative Judaism and the Masorti Movement, and organized by Diane Friedgut, the study also takes place in three locations each February, drawing 400 women.

Ministry of Commerce and Industry Cadets Get a Lesson in Judaism
Israel’s Ministry of Commerce and Industry turned to the Schechter Institute to provide courses in basic Judaism to new economic attaches set to leave for duty abroad. Rabbi Tzi Graetz, a Schechter Rabbinical Seminary graduate, taught a class in April 2006 on Jewish holidays and basic skills needed for the synagogue.
Annual Aronson Lecture
Honors Rabbi Aaron Blumenthal

The Annual Rabbi David Aronson Memorial Lecture commemorated the scholarship of Rabbi Aaron Blumenthal in a January afternoon of study on “Aliyot for Women – Fifty Years After Rabbi Aaron Blumenthal’s Responsum.” Attended by the Blumenthal family, and chaired by Rabbi Dr. Einat Ramon, the seminar included lectures by Prof. David Blumenthal, Emory College, on the significance of his father’s halakhic work, Prof. David Golinkin on “Rabbi Blumenthal’s Responsum in Historical Perspective,” Prof. Daniel Sperber, Bar Ilan University, on “Honoring the Public, Honoring God’s Creatures” and Dr. Tova Hartman, Hebrew University, on “Jewish Law and Lesser Jewish Law.”

Pre-Army Teenage Group Visits Schechter

Schechter hosted a group of forty high school graduates enrolled in the pre-army preparatory program “Amiha” at Argaman, a community in Israel’s Jordan Valley. The group explored “The Different Movements in Judaism” with Rabbis Einat Ramon and Zvi Graetz (Conservative) and Anat Hoffman (Reform).

Schechter Students Meet with Mentally Retarded

Schechter students learning in the Family and Community M.A. track met with a group of mentally retarded individuals from “BNafshaynu,” a group that was established to improve channels of communication between the community-at-large and the mentally challenged. Organized by track advisor Dr. Amram Dolev, the May 2006 meeting allowed students to hear personal stories from B’Nafshaynu members as well as share in the obstacles they face and how they cope with their disabilities. Students showed great interest in volunteering following the exchange.

Conferences, Lectures and Symposia

Awards of Distinction

Dr. Guy Miron, Dean of the Schechter Graduate School, was selected to join the Young Forum of Humanities of The Israeli National Academy of Sciences for 2006-07.

August 2006

• Prof. Alice Shalvi, “Remembering the Past, Living the Present, Preparing for the Future,” Fourth Bet Debora Conference of European Jewish Women, Budapest

July 2006

• Dr. Brenda Bacon, Chair, session on “Significance of Teacher Involvement in Planning and Evaluation of Curriculum,” from conference on “Curriculum Development in an Age of Standardization,” Beit Berl College, Tel Aviv, co-sponsored by the Schechter Institute.
• Dr. Shula Laderman, “The Symbolic Image of the Tabernacle/Temple in Jewish and Christian Visual Polemics of the Fourth Century,” European Association for Jewish Studies Congress, Moscow
• Dr. Tamar Kadari, “Not in the Heavens is She: Jerusalem as Seen in the Depths of the Sea” and Dr. Yair Paz, “The Hebrew University Campus on Mt. Scopus as a New Temple,” in a seminar on “Jerusalem: Hikes and Lectures,” Efrata Academic College, Jerusalem

June 2006

• Dr. Doron Bar, “Wars and Holy Space: the Influence of the 1948 War on Sacred Space in the State of Israel,” International Conference on Confrontation and Co-existence in Holy Places, University of Haifa, 2006
• Prof. Haim Be’er, “The Song of Songs as a Source for Book Names in Modern Hebrew Literature”; Dr. Tamar Kadari, “Approaches and Methodologies of the Sages: Midrashic Commentaries on the Song of Songs,” Interdisciplinary Conference on Song of Songs, Bar Ilan University
• Prof. David Golinkin, “The Influence of Christianity and Islam on Jewish Law in the Middle Ages,” Talmud Dept. Seminar, Bar Ilan University
• Dr. Shula Laderman, “Fear and Awe in the High Holiday Liturgy and its Illustrations,” Conference on “Art, Liturgy and Religious Cult in Late Antiquity and the Middle Ages,” Ben Gurion University; “Justice, Law and Leadership from the Perspective of Art,” Annual Conference of Bible Teachers, Tel Aviv
• Dr. Yair Paz, “Abandoned Jewish Neighborhoods in the Damascus Gate Area: Legal and Historic Aspects,” Bar Ilan University; “Mysticism and Landscape: How Safed Became One of the Four Holy Cities in the 16th Century,” 8th Annual Galilee Research Conference, Tel Hai College
• Rabbi Dr. Einat Ramon, “According to the Law of Moses and Israel: A Panel Discussion on Jewish Marriage,” - A Festival of Jewish Learning, Kibbutz Kfar Bloom; “Have We Left Egypt?” Panel Discussion, Beit Midrash Bamidbar, Yeruham

May 2006

• The Second Annual Sarah Becker Frank Conference, marking the publication of Zoa’kat Dalot: Halakhic Solutions for the Agunot of our Time, published by Schechter Institute’s Center for Women in Jewish Law, written by Center senior researchers and Schechter graduates, Rabbis Diana Villa and Monique Susskind Goldberg, Van Leer Institute, Jerusalem
• Dr. Brenda Bacon, “Curriculum and Ideologies in Israeli Society,” international conference on “Gender, Religion and Society,” Bar–Ilan University
• Dr. Melila Eshel–Heiner, “Enrollment and the Teaching of the Zohar at the Hebrew University,” Discourse on Academia and Spirituality, Van Leer Institute, Jerusalem
• Dr. Guy Miron, panel discussion devoted to the publication of Arabness, Jewishness, Zionism: A Clash of Identities in the Literature of Iraqi Jews, by Reuven Snir, Susan Dalal Center, Tel Aviv
• Rabbi Dr. Einat Ramon, “The Processes of Peace: Torah Portion Nasso,” Van Leer Institute’s Opening the Week Lecture Series, Jerusalem; “Idolatry and Feminist Jewish Theology,” international conference on “Gender, Religion and Society,” Bar–Ilan University
• Prof. Alice Shalvi, “Inter-religious Reflection on Conversion,” Vatican and World Council of Churches Conference on Inter-religious Dialogue, Villetti, Italy
• Dr. Bat-Sheva Stern, “Women’s Magazines in Pre-State Israel,” Association for Israel Studies, Banff, Canada

April 2006
• Rabbi Dr. Einat Ramon, “Gordonian Influences on Professor Avraham Shapiro’s Scholarship,” A Conference in Honor of Prof. Avraham Shapiro, Beit Midrash Bina, Tel Aviv
• Dr. Yossi Turner, “Ethics and Justice in Modern Jewish Thought,” Annual Conference of the Center for Jewish Culture, Haifa University

March 2006
• Dr. Pnina Galpaz-Feller, “Do Clothes Make the Man?” Torah Portion Tetzaveh, Van Leer Institute’s Opening the Week Lecture Series, Jerusalem
• Prof. Shmuel Glick, “The Dilemma of Democracy and Halakha,” Center for Jewish Educational Thought, Lifshitz College, Jerusalem
• Prof. Shamma Friedman, “Mishneh Torah: Remnants of the First Handwritten Version by the Rambam,” Israel Academy of the Sciences and Humanities, Jerusalem
• Dr. Tamar Kadari, “Ancient Jewish Interpretation of the Song of Songs,” Dormitian Abbey program for German scholars, Jerusalem
• Dr. Yair Paz, “Origins of the Botanical Gardens – Garden of Eig?” Celebrating 75 Years of the Botanical Gardens – Annual Seminar, Hebrew University Mt. Scopus Campus, Jerusalem
• Prof. Avraham Shapiro, “Historical Memory and Utopian Vision in the Worldview of A.D. Gordon,” An evening honoring Prof. Paul Mendes-Floir, Van Leer Institute, Jerusalem

February 2006
• Rabbi Dr. Einat Ramon, “Humor in the Bible” Jerusalem Cinematheque, Social Workers for Peace
• Dr. Sara Strasbourg-Dayan, “The ‘Dialogue’ Between Rabbi Abraham I. Hacohen Kook and A. D. Gordon – Implications for our Time,” Levinsky and Talpiot Teaching Seminaries Conference, Tel Aviv

January 2006
• Rabbi Ben Hollander, “Nehama’s Torah: An Exegetical System or a Teaching Method? Chair and Prof. Eliezer Schweid, “Public Discussion: The Influence and Contribution of Nehama Leibowitz,” Torah Study, Exegesis and Research Conference, Van Leer Institute, Jerusalem
• Dr. Guy Miron, “Immigranten deutscher Herkunft in Israel – Erinnerung und Autobiographie”, Public Lecture at Freie Universität, Berlin; participated in the opening ceremony of the permanent exhibit “The Wannsee Conference and the Genocide of the European Jews,” as a member of the Association Responsible for the House of the Wannsee Conference, Berlin
• Rabbi Dr. Einat Ramon, “A.D. Gordon’s Critique of the Desire to Dominate,” and Prof. Avraham Shapiro, “Self-Critique and Tikkun Olam in Gordon’s Worldview,” Bet Gordon Seventieth Anniversary Conference, Kinneret College, Jordan Valley
• Dr. Sara Strasbourg-Dayan, “Man in the Worldview of Rav Kook and A. D. Gordon,” Opening of art works by Strasbourg-Dayan, Botanical Gardens, Jerusalem
• Dr. Yossi Turner, “Ultra-Orthodox Thought in the Wake of the Holocaust,” Respondent, International Conference on the Holocaust and Ultra-Orthodoxy, Tel Aviv University

December 2005
• First Annual Sarah Becker Frank Academic Conference on Women in Israeli Society, Forming a New Social Order: Women and Womanhood Shaping the Yishuv

November 2005
• Dr. Yossi Turner, “Language, Faith and Morality in the Philosophy of Franz Rosenzweig, and in Contemporary Life,” Van Leer Institute, Jerusalem
• Prof. Shamma Friedman, “Moses Maimonides and Moses Taku: Two Models of Talmudic Exegesis,” Yeshiva University, NY
• Dr. Guy Miron, “The Political Culture of Central European Jewry from the 1890s to the 1930s,” International Conference on “The Nation-State and Other Political Traditions of the Jewish People,” Tel Aviv University; presented five lectures in the popular series “It’s All About History,” November 2005–April 2006, Zalman Shazar Center, Jerusalem
• Rabbi Diana Villa, “Halakhic Solutions to the Agunah Problem” for Mavoel Satum volunteers

April 2006
• Prof. David Golinkin, “On the Development of Jewish Law, 500–1500 c.e.,” Teacher in-service training, Kerem Institute, Jerusalem
• Prof. Eliezer Schweid, Panel discussion on “The Philosophy of Rav Kook: Relevance for the Secular and Religious Public,” Van Leer Institute, Jerusalem
• Prof. Alice Shalvi, “A Longing for Peace: The Challenges of a Multi-cultural, Multi-religious World,” Conference of the Nanzan Institute for Religion and Culture, Bilboa, Spain

Rabbi Diana Villa, “Halakhic Solutions to the Agunah Problem” Beit Midrash, Beit Hillel, Hebrew University; “Chauvinism in Jewish Law,” Limmud Gaal Regional Conference Moshav Me’ona
Publications
(published by the Schechter Institute or authored by Schechter Faculty)

Books
Talmud Ha-Igud: BT Berakhot Chapter I with Comprehensive Commentary,
Prof. Moshe Benovitz, ed. Prof. Shamma Friedman, Jerusalem: The Society for the Interpretation of the Talmud, 2006 (Hebrew)

Kuntress Ha-Teshuvot He-hadash: A Bibliographic Thesaurus of Responsa Literature Published from ca. 1470-2000, Vol. 1, ed. Prof. Shmuel Glick, Jerusalem and Ramat-Gan: Schechter Institute, Bar Ilan University and the Schocken Institute, 2006 (Hebrew with English summaries)

Mekorot le-toldot ha-Hinukh be-Yisrael: A Source-Book for the History of Jewish Education: Responsa from the Lands of Islam and the Ottoman Empire (16th-20th century), Volume 4, ed. Prof. Shmuel Glick, Jerusalem and New York: Lifschitz Academic College and Jewish Theological Seminary, 2006 (Hebrew with English summaries)

Insight Israel: The View From Schechter, Second Series, Prof. David Golinkin, Jerusalem: Schechter Institute, 2006

Za’akot Dalot (The Cry of the Wretched): Halakhic Solutions for the Agunot of our Time, Rabbis Monique Susskind Goldberg, and Diana Villa; eds., Prof. David Golinkin, Prof. Moshe Benovitz and Rabbi Richard Lewis, Jerusalem: Center for Women in Jewish Law, Schechter Institute, 2006 (Hebrew with English summaries)

To Learn and To Teach #3: “Women in the Minyan and as Shelihot Tzibbur,” Rabbis Monique Susskind Goldberg, and Diana Villa, ed. Prof. David Golinkin, Center for Women in Jewish Law, Jerusalem: Schechter Institute, 2006 (Hebrew, English, Spanish, French, Russian)


Prof. Ze’ev Falk Memorial Volume, ed. by Prof. M.D. Herr et all, Jerusalem: Schechter Institute and Meisharim Publications, 2005, (Hebrew)

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. 10, Jewish Women’s Spirituality, consulting editor: Vanessa L. Ochs, Fall 2005; No. 11, Yemenite Jewish Women, consulting editor, Nitza Druyan, Spring 2006


Jewish and Israeli Theatre: Three Plays in Spanish, Dr. Sara Strasbourg-Dayan: ed. Dorgraf, Tel Aviv, 2006

Redemption in Bondage: The Women Workers Movement in Mandatory Palestine 1920-1939, Dr. Bat-Sheva Stern, Jerusalem: Schechter Institute and Yad Ben Zvi Institute, 2006 (Hebrew)

Malki Bakodesh, Vol. 1, by Rabbi Hayyim Hirschenson, ed. Dr. David Zohar, Jerusalem and Ramat Gan: Schechter Institute, Hartman Institute and Bar Ilan University, 2006 (Hebrew)
Articles


Dr. Pnina Galpaz-Feller: ”Let Me Die with the Philistines” (Judges 16:30),” JSOT, March 2006; “And the physicians embalmed him” (Gen 50,2),” ZAW, Zeitschrift für die Alttestamentliche Wissenschaft, Vol 117, 2006

Prof. Shmuel Glick: “On Education and Rabbinic Training According to the Worldview of Rabbi Professor Simha Assaf,” and co-editor, Hagug: Studies in Jewish Educational Thought, 7, 2006

Prof. Shamma Friedman: “From Sinai to Cyberspace: the Transmission of the Talmud in Every Age”, Talmud Printing from Bomberg to Schottenstein, Yeshiva University Museum, 2005; “Mehadrin min ha-Mehadrin,” Leschonenu 67 (2005); “Hanukkah in the Scholion of Megillat Ta’anit,” Zion 71, 2006; “The Aggadah of Rav Kahana and Rabbi Yohanan (Bava Gamma 117a-b) and the Hamburger – Geniza Recension” (Hebrew), Meyer S. Feldblum Memorial Volume, Bar Ilan University, 30-31, 2006


Rabbi Dr. Einat Ramon: “The Matriarchs and the Torah of Hesed (Loving Kindness)” NASHIM, Vol.10, Fall 2005


Partners in Development

Rabbi Mark Greenspan dances with children of TAU Bayit V’Gan School, Jerusalem, at Torah dedication ceremony, donated by Oceanside Jewish Center, NY

Rae Richman, Frank Foundation (right), and Atara Ciechanover (center left) with Schechter M.A. students

Gloria Cohen (right), Women’s League President, with Diane Friedgut, Women’s Study Day coordinator

Buddy and Frances Brandt, Oceanside, NY, carry Torah into TAU Bayit V’gan School, Jerusalem
DEVELOPMENT

The 2005/06 fundraising year was one of transition and significant growth for the Schechter Institute of Jewish Studies. Retaining the services of EHL Consulting has enabled us to build our fundraising capacity while significantly reducing overhead – ensuring that a maximum of every dollar we raise is used directly to further our mission.

Between July 2005 and June 2006 Schechter Inc. raised $4.1 million for its numerous programs and activities in Jerusalem and across Israel and Eastern Europe. This is a 14% increase from the previous year. We are, with the generous support of individuals, foundations and federations, expanding our programs and strengthening pluralistic Jewish education in Israel and around the world.

SIJS Inc. has raised $5 million towards our goal of $11 million for Phase I of Schechter’s new campus, which will solve our current shortage of space and enable further growth. We are dedicating the cornerstone of this new campus on November 28, 2006.

- We have spoken with existing and prospective donors in the United States, Canada, Puerto Rico, Great Britain, France, Mexico and Israel
- We have brought the Schechter Institute’s unique message into the homes and offices of leaders throughout North America
- Our goal for the coming year is to continue growing by introducing Schechter and its vision to an ever-growing circle of donors and friends

Gifts for the New Schechter Campus

William Davidson
Robert and Arleen Rifkind
Kochav Trust
Paul and Sheri Robbins
Jerusalem Foundation
Aaron and Arleen Priest
Lou and Judy Miller
Alisa and Dan Doctoroff
Edward and Barbara Zinbarg
Nathan and Lily Silver Family Foundation
Gershon and Carol Kekst
Jerome and Miriam Katzin
Sidney and Nancy Unobskey
Gerald Cohen and Martin Cohen

Schechter Institute Graduate School Endowment

Jerome and Miriam Katzin of San Diego have created the Presidential Chair in Jewish Studies, the first endowed Chair at Schechter.

New Major Gifts/Commitments ($10,000 and over)

Schechter Institute Graduate School Estate of Rabbi Morris Gordon z”l, General Support
Gary Berman, General Support
Sidney Frank Foundation, Women’s Studies Programs
Harry Kramer Memorial Foundation, Scholarships for Students from Development Towns

Dorot Foundation, Center for Women in Jewish Law
Nash Family Foundation, Center for Women in Jewish Law
Jewish Federation of Greater Orlando, Women’s Study Days

Schechter Rabbinical Seminary

Toddy Granovsky, TALI Rabbi Scholarship
Jewish Federation of San Francisco, Chaplaincy Program
UJA-Federation of Greater New York, Chaplaincy Program
UJC of Metro West, Chaplaincy Program
Women’s League Torah Fund Campaign, Rabbinical Seminary Scholarships

TALI Education Fund

Diana and Manolo Berezdivin, New TALI School
Aaron and Randy Malinsky, New TALI School
Blanche and Phil Meisel, New TALI School
David and Inez Myers Foundation, New TALI School
Gary Shiffman, New TALI School
UJC of Pittsburgh, New TALI School
Buddy and Frances Brandt, TALI Siddur Publication
Edith Glick Shoolman Foundation, TALI Teacher Training
Associated Jewish Federation of Baltimore, TALI Schools in Ashkelon
Anne Heyman and Seth Merrin, Co-existence program for TALI and Arab-sector schools in the Galilee
David Klein, TALI Jewish Art website
Targum Shlishi, TALI Jewish Art website
Congregation Adat Shalom, Detroit, TALI Bar/Bat Mitzvah Seminars
Jewish Federation of San Francisco, pilot TALI program for youth-at-risk
Midreshet Yerushalayim

Legacy Heritage Fund Limited, a program to train MILI facilitators from around the world. Funding will be matched by MASA, run by the Jewish Agency.

Abraham and Sonya Rochlin Foundation, Camp Ramah-Ukraine

Jewish Federation of Greater Orlando, Courses and activities for Russian immigrants at Masorti Synagogues

JUF of Metropolitan Chicago, Student rabbi internship in Kiev

Genesis Philanthropic Fund, Midreshet Yerushalayim-Masorti Olami Center in Kiev

Larry and Robin Brown, New community school in Odessa

Julius and Ray Charlestein Family Foundation, Midreshet Yerushalayim Ukraine

Phl Wachs and David Wachs, Camp Ramah-Ukraine

Highlights of SIJS, Inc. Activities

Board Meetings in Jerusalem and New York

The Schechter Institute of Jewish Studies, Inc., under the chairmanship of Robert Rifkind, held its board meeting in February 2006 in New York. In Jerusalem, Boards of Governors of the Schechter Institute Graduate School and Schechter Rabbinical Seminary convened Nov. 29 – Dec. 1, 2005, and participated in the 9th annual Liebhaber Prize for Religious Tolerance, the 18th Rabbinical Ordination and the First Commencement Exercises of the Graduate School as an accredited Israeli academic institution.

Turn-out for TALI in New Rochelle

Dr. Alex Hoffer, chair of the Beth El Synagogue Center Israel Action Committee of New Rochelle, NY, was the guiding force behind a very successful event held to raise funds for the TALI Education Fund in September 2005. Dr. Ronald and Mrs. Nina Spiro, New Rochelle, graciously hosted the event which drew a large crowd keen on learning more about the educational work of TALI in Israel.

“Friend-Raising” Event in San Diego

A city-wide event organized by the Conservative leadership of eleven San Diego synagogues was held in March 2006.

Jonathan Sadow, Schechter rabbinical student, spoke about Schechter’s educational work, joining representatives of all Israeli Conservative institutions.

Presidential Tours

Prof. David Golinkin addressed major Conservative convocations and served as a scholar-in-residence at a number of North American Jewish communities in 2005-06, including the Rabbinical Assembly Convention, Mexico City; United Synagogue Great Lakes and Rivers Region, Pittsburgh, PA; Toronto: Beth Zedec and “Torah in Toronto” for all Conservative synagogues; Temple Beth Torah, Ocean, NJ; Anshe Emet Synagogue, Chicago, IL; Congregation Beth Israel, Worcester, MA; B’nai Israel Congregation, Rockville, MD.

Schechter Graduate School Board of Governors meeting in Jerusalem

Saluting Board Member Achievements

Ralph Goldman, (Graduate School Board) received an honorary PhD from Ben Gurion University of the Negev, December 2005

Amb. Efrem Halevy, (Graduate School Board) published Man in the Shadows, New York, NY: St. Martin’s Press, (Hebrew, English and German)

Rabbi David Rosen, (Graduate School Board) was named a papal Knight Commander of the Order of St Gregory the Great for his outstanding contributions to promoting Catholic-Jewish reconciliation, The Vatican, Rome, November 2005

Prof. Alice Shalvi, (Graduate School and Seminary Boards) was awarded the Samuel Rothberg Prize for Jewish Education, Hebrew University, June 2006

Dr. Alon Tal, (Rabbinical Seminary Board) received the Charles Bronfman Prize for extraordinary achievement by a young Jewish leader, in a ceremony at Jerusalem’s City Hall, January 2006

SIJS Lectures in North America

Prof. Renée Levine Melamed was a Visiting Professor at Yale University, New Haven, CT, for the 2005-06 academic year. She taught “Iberian Jews and Conversos” (Fall Semester) and “Jewish Women in Medieval Societies” (Spring Seminar). During the year, she lectured extensively in North America in academic settings as well as at Conservative-affiliated institutions.


Schechter Faculty as Visiting Professors at JTS

Prof. Haim Be’er taught courses in Hebrew Literature, Fall 2005 ; Dr. Ari Ackerman taught a summer school course on “Education and Ideology in the State of Israel,” summer 2006

Left to right: Anteen Priest, Alice Shalvi, Shula Laderman and Aaron Priest at the BOG opening dinner, Jerusalem

Former MK and Minister of Justice Dan Meridor addressing BOG members

Former MK and Minister of Justice Dan Meridor

Prof. Alice Shalvi is congratulated by Hebrew University’s Prof. Menachem Magid (President, left) and Prof. Haim Rabinovitch, Rector, upon receipt of the Rothberg Prize for Jewish Education.

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COMMUNICATIONS

The Communications Department supports the fundraising efforts of Schechter Institute of Jewish Studies, Inc. through the production of promotional materials, the on-going cultivation of media contacts both in North America and Israel, the encouragement of mission visits to Schechter, and the strengthening of communication avenues between Schechter and its growing donor base.

Publicity Materials

- **Schechter Institute of Jewish Studies Campaign Film** about the Schechter Rabbinical Seminary, TALI Education Fund, Midrashet Yerushalayim in Israel and Eastern Europe; 8 minutes. Distributed with *The Year in Review: 2005-06*, September 2006

- **Embracing the Mosaic of Jewish Life**, a series of six brochures describing the Schechter educational enterprise. Printed in 2005-06: General Brochure, TALI Education Fund, Capital Campaign

- **Mapping our Jewish Future** brochure with brief description of the four educational organizations supported by Schechter Institute of Jewish Studies, Inc; includes a series of four maps showing Schechter educational outreach in Israel and Ukraine

Media Relations


Website and Electronic Mailings

The Communications Department launched the Schechter Rabbinical Seminary website, [www.schechter.org.il](http://www.schechter.org.il), in February 2006. (See full description of site features, p. 20).

- The Graduate School Hebrew website for student recruitment, [www.schechter.ac.il](http://www.schechter.ac.il), features the course catalogue, monthly faculty articles in Hebrew and a news column highlighting upcoming events, with links to other Schechter sites; The SIJS, Inc. English website, [www.schechter.edu](http://www.schechter.edu), features *Insight Israel*, a monthly column written by Prof. David Golinkin, *Faculty Forum*, a monthly column presenting original research by Schechter faculty; *Ask the Rabbi*, a service staffed by Rabbis Diana Villa and Monique Susskind Goldberg; and the *Schechter Bookstore* where SIJS publications can be purchased; *www.mili.org.il* is Midrashet Yerushalayim’s Russian-language website featuring information on Judaism, Jewish heritage and customs for Russian-speakers around the world; *www.tali.org.il* is the TALI Education Fund official website providing information on the TALI network of schools, pedagogic materials, discussion groups, Weekly Torah Portion and more; *www.ResponsaForToday.com* is a bi-lingual repository of Conservative responsa where many Schechter Halakhic studies can be accessed; *www.PluralismIsrael.com* (Hebrew), is a resource for pluralism projects in Israel.

E-mail Communiques

Schechter continues to expand its email address base reaching a direct mailing of 6,000 individuals around the world. The email commentaries are regularly picked up by leading Jewish reference sites, including MyJewishLearning.com and AboutJudaism.com.

The President’s Corner: Prof. David Golinkin in the Media


- **May 2006**: Ha’aretz Newspaper, “Planning for a Divorce Before the Wedding”


- **October 2005**: Jerusalem Post, “The Four Faces of Simhat Torah” and “Solving a Mahzor Mystery”; Israel Radio interview (English News), “New Book Explains the Mahzor”

Cornerstone Laying Ceremony for New Schechter Campus in Jerusalem

“Jerusalem Built Up is Like a City Joined as One” A significant marketing campaign was launched in March 2006 to recruit participants to the Schechter Institute Cornerstone Laying Ceremony for the New Schechter Campus to take place in Jerusalem November 28, 2006, as part of a full schedule of exciting events, Nov. 27-30, 2006.
Missions and Guest Visits to Schechter

Missions and individual visits to the Schechter Institute and TALI schools are the best way to experience Schechter educational outreach. Highlights include:

August 2006: Rabbi Mendel and Lila Abrams, Burtonsville, MD; July 2006: Paula Gottesman, Morristown, NY; Leah Susskind, New York and Jerusalem; Alex and Olga Eisen, Toronto; Sharon Liebhaber and Rabbi Alan Iser, Philadelphia, PA; Rabbis Matt and Miriam Zuckerman, Temple Israel, White Plains, NY; Beth El Temple, West Hartford, CT, led by Rabbi Jim Rosen; Beth Emeth Bais Yehuda, Toronto, led by Rabbi Howard Morrison; UJA Federation of NY Caring Commission;

July 2006: Paula Gottesman, Morristown, NY; Leah Susskind, New York and Jerusalem; Alex and Olga Eisen, Toronto; Sharon Liebhaber and Rabbi Alan Iser, Philadelphia, PA; Rabbinical Assembly Solidarity Mission led by Rabbi Neil Zuckerman, Temple Israel, White Plains, NY; Beth El Temple, West Hartford, CT, led by Rabbi Jim Rosen; Beth Emeth Bais Yehuda, Toronto, led by Rabbi Howard Morrison; UJA Federation of NY Caring Commission;

June 2006: Gloria Cohen and Evelyn Seelig of Women’s League, Women’s Study Day at Schechter; Bonnie Tanenbaum, Palo Alto, CA; Baltimore Hebrew University Educators; RA rabbis from Israel and abroad, met with Prof. David Golinkin and other Conservative leaders, Fuchsberg Center, Jerusalem; WZO Congress Delegation; Oceanside Jewish Center Torah Dedication, led by Rabbi Mark Greenspan, and donated by Buddy and Frances Brandt; Delegation of Mercaz Olami and Masorti Olami led by Rabbi Vernon Kurtz and Alan Silberman; Leon Wagner, New York, NY; May 2006: Rae Richman, Sidney Frank Foundation Atara Ciechanover, Steven and Sue Stone, Alexandria, VA; March 2006: UJC of Metro West Pluralism Committee, Metro West, NJ; Lou and Judy Miller, Los Angeles, CA; Norm and Brenda Kaman, Toronto; February 2006: Rabbi Vernon and Bryna Kurtz, Highland Park, Ill; Adat Shalom Synagogue, Farmington Hills, MI, led by Rabbi Herbert Yoskowitz; CoJir, UJA Federation of NY; Mercaz/Masorti Olami leaders Rabbi Vernon Kurtz and Alan Silberman; January 2006: Diana and Manolo Berezdivin and Jacobo and Raquel Bender, Puerto Rico; Philadelphia Synagogue Mission, led by Rabbis David Ackerman, Adam Wohlberg; Conservative Rabbis of Israel Bonds met with Prof. David Golinkin, Fuchsberg Center; December 2005: Congregation Or Hadash, led by Rabbis Mario Karpuj and Analia Bortz, Atlanta, GA; ITS Davidson School of Education Study Group, NY; Dr. Bruce and Risa Mallin, Phoenix, AZ; November 2005: Women’s League National Mission; September 2006: Adath Israel Cong., led by Rabbi Erwin Schild, Toronto.
<table>
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<tr>
<th>Budget 2006 (in US$)</th>
<th>Income</th>
<th>Expenses</th>
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<td><strong>Schechter Institute of Jewish Studies</strong>&lt;br&gt;<strong>Graduate School</strong></td>
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<td>Jewish Agency</td>
<td>67,500</td>
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<td>Federations and Foundations</td>
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<td>Academic Centers, Publishing and Outreach</td>
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<td><strong>Schechter Rabbinical Seminary</strong></td>
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<td>Tuition and Fees</td>
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<td>JDC/Jewish Agency</td>
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<td>Federations</td>
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<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>400,700</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Total Income</strong></td>
<td><strong>6,493,124</strong></td>
<td><strong>Total Expenses</strong></td>
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Schechter Institute of Jewish Studies, Inc. | Board of Directors

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Buddy Brandt
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Schechter Institute of Jewish Studies
Graduate School

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Dr. David Breakstone: Chairman, Executive Committee (Israel)
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Dr. Irit Zmora, Israel

Schechter Full-time Faculty (September 2006)

Dr. Ari Ackerman, Jewish Education, Jewish Thought
Dr. Moti Arad, Talmud (on leave)
Dr. Brenda Bacon, Jewish Education
Prof. Moshe Benovitz, Talmud, Jewish Law
Dr. Alexander Even-Chen, Jewish Thought
Dr. Pinina Feller, Bible
Dr. David Frankel, Bible
Prof. Shamma Friedman, Talmud
Prof. Shmuel Glick, Talmud, Jewish Law
Prof. David Golinkin, Talmud, Jewish Law
Dr. Tamar Kadari, Midrash
Dr. Shula Laderman, Judaism and the Arts
Prof. Renée Levine Melammed, Jewish History, Women’s Studies
Dr. Paul Mandel, Midrash
Dr. Guy Miron, Jewish History
Dr. Michal Oren, Land of Israel Studies
Dr. Yair Paz, Land of Israel Studies
Dr. Einat Ramon, Jewish Thought, Women’s Studies
Dr. George Savran, Bible
Dr. Paul Shrell-Fox, Family and Community Studies
Dr. Bat-Sheva Margalit Stern, Jewish History, Women’s Studies
Dr. Joseph Turner, Jewish Thought

*Member of the Executive Committee
** Ex officio
**Schechter Rabbinical Seminary** (September 2006)

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**Rabbi Prof. Hanan Alexander,** Chairman of the Executive Committee  
**Rabbi Dr. Einat Ramon,** Dean

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- Rabbi Alan Cohen, USA
- Eitan Cooper, Israel*
- Alisa Doctoroff, USA
- Rabbi Gesa Ederberg, Germany*
- Rene Feinstein, USA
- Rabbi Baruch Frydman-Kohl, Canada
- Ned Gladstein, USA
- Roz Goldstine, USA
- Rabbi David Golinkin, Israel*
- Rabbi Michael Graetz, Israel*
- Mervin Gray, USA
- Rabbi Richard Hammerman, USA
- Jack Kay, USA
- Gershon Kekst, USA
- Rabbi Rivon Krygier, France*
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- Rabbi William Lebeau, USA*
- Rachel Leor, Israel*
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