

“The critical approach,  
the honest and straightforward  
study, the intimate atmosphere...  
that is Schechter.”

**Itzik Biton**



“The defining experience is that  
of being in a place where pluralism  
isn't talked about: it's lived.”

**Liti Golan**



“What did Schechter  
give me? The ability  
to read the most  
beautiful book  
in the world...  
in a different way.”

**Yosef Peleg**



“The exposure to all kinds  
of people and a variety  
of Jewish sources allowed  
for personal growth and  
the desire to engage with  
ideas and people  
different than me.”

**Sigal Aloni**



“As a daughter of immigrants  
from Libya, earning this degree is  
a way to connect to the Jewish values  
that guided my parents, which  
I am obliged to pass on to my children  
and grandchildren.”

**Tikva Guetta**



## **Schechter@35: Living Judaism**

**Annual Report 2018-2019**

“I acquired  
a significant and deep  
foundation in Halakhah  
and Midrash thanks  
to the best teachers  
in the field.”

**Raanan Malek**



“When it came to Jewish subjects,  
I felt like an alien, lost in a foreign  
city. At Schechter, I fell into a  
nurturing hothouse, leaving the  
barren behind, blossoming anew.”

**Dana Stavi**



The Schechter Institutes, Inc.  
שוחרי עמותת שכטר

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

**The Schechter Institute of Jewish Studies**, the largest M.A. program in Jewish Studies in Israel with 400 students and 1756 graduates.

**The Schechter Rabbinical Seminary** is the international rabbinical school of Masorti Judaism, serving Israel, Europe and the Americas.

**The TALI Education Fund** offers a pluralistic Jewish studies program to 65,000 children in over 300 Israeli secular public schools and kindergartens.

**Midreshet Yerushalayim** provides Jewish education to Jewish communities throughout Ukraine.

**Midreshet Schechter** offers adult Jewish education in Bet Midrash frameworks throughout Israel.

**Neve Schechter-Legacy Heritage Center for Jewish Culture** in Neve Zedek draws 19,000 Tel Avivians every year to concerts, classes, cultural events and art exhibits.



Written and edited by Linda Price  
Photos: Dan Aharoni, Ilana Foss, Amit Herman, Itai Nadav, Jorge Novominsky, Edgar Peti, Aviv Pressburger and Noa Vachner

**On the cover:**

Sigal Aloni, M.A. in Marpeh Spiritual Care, Clinical Dietitian  
Itzik Biton, M.A. in Bible, Career Officer, IDF  
Liti Golan, M.A. in Maccabee Community Leadership Program, works with special needs population  
Tikva Guetta, M.A. in Jewish Education, TALI teacher  
Raanan Malek, SRS graduate, Rabbi of the Masorti Kehilla in Shorashim  
Dana Stavi, M.A. in Maccabee Community Leadership Program, works with children-at-risk  
Yosef Peleg, M.A. in Bible, high school teacher



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# Letter from the Chair



## Dear Friends,

Last year, I wrote about the challenges facing pluralism in Israel. Indeed, last summer our own head of Midreshet Schechter in Israel, Rabbi Dubi Haiyun, was arrested for performing a non-Orthodox wedding. This year, I am happy to tell you that R. Dubi is doing well and based on the publicity his work received upon his arrest, he ran for municipal office in Haifa. He is now serving Haifa as Deputy Mayor. He continues to champion pluralism in Israel in this new role.

Promoting religious pluralism in Israel and increasing the Jewish knowledge of Israelis are Schechter's main missions. We do this through a four-pronged approach. Firstly, through our TALI educational system, we reach 65,000 children from nursery school through high school each year. TALI provides Jewish educational content to these students in the secular public school system and grows Jewish knowledge and practice of both the students and their families. In addition, curricula and learning materials we develop are used in many other schools in Israel and worldwide, reaching thousands more each year. TALI curricular materials are top-notch, but only as effective as the Jewish educators using them. This is why we invest heavily in professional development programs for educators, especially Hallelu that grew to over 150 participants in 2019.

Our graduate school, the Schechter Institute of Jewish Studies, is the second way we spread Jewish pluralism. SIJS students are educators, community activists, JCC professionals, non-profit leaders, public and municipal servants, and business people. In 2018/2019, we had a record enrollment of 120 new students and conferred 73 Master's degrees in Jewish Studies. Our program is still the largest in Israel in its field.

In addition to training educators and communal workers, Masorti synagogues require educated clergy and lay people. The Schechter Rabbinical Seminary ordained 4 new rabbis and has 18 more studying for ordination. We also "went live" with our new Ashira program which focuses on training lay prayer leaders to sing and teach Jewish liturgical music. The first year enrollment of 53 students vastly exceeded our expectations and demonstrates the thirst for this type of knowledge. In addition, this year we opened a second Torah Lishma program at Neve Schechter in Tel Aviv; 20 lay people study with our faculty each week to deepen their understanding of Judaism and Jewish values.

The last of our methods of spreading pluralistic Judaism is through adult education. We run programs in both Hebrew and English in Jerusalem and Tel Aviv and also numerous Beit Midrash programs throughout the country. These programs reach 20,000 people each year.

Outside of Israel, we continue our work in Ukraine. Our congregations and Camp Ramah continue to grow. This year a Torah scroll was dedicated in our community in Odessa.

In closing, I would like to congratulate my partner in this work, Rabbi Professor David Golinkin. In recognition of his achievements at Schechter and also contributing to the understanding and development of Jewish Law (Halakhah), he was awarded an honorary doctorate by The Jewish Theological Seminary in New York.

Wishing you a year of health and prosperity,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Saul I. Sanders". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

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

# Letter from the President



I recently read an article about the last survivor of some 400 men who worked on Mount Rushmore from 1927-1941. They blasted 450,000 tons of granite in order to carve the 60-foot-high sculptures of the four presidents.

This story about carving stone reminded me of the famous story about Rabbi Akiva in Avot Derabi Nattan (Chapter 6). "He was 40 years old and had not yet learned anything. Once, he was standing next to a well. He said: who carved this stone? They replied: the water which steadily falls on it every day... He immediately [said]: just as the soft [water] sculpted the hard [rock]; the words of Torah which are hard as iron, how much the more so should they carve my heart which is flesh and blood! He immediately began to study Torah. He continued to learn until he learned the entire Torah..."

We can learn much from these two stories. Serious Jewish education takes many years. The blasters worked on Mount Rushmore for 14 years; the water took many years to carve the rock. It has taken us 35 years to grow from 4 rabbinical students in 1984 to 85,000 children and adults served by the Schechter Institutes today.

Serious Jewish education requires a large group of people working together. The hundreds of workers at the Schechter Institutes and over 3,000 TALI teachers and principals can achieve miracles by working together, just like the 400 workers at Mount Rushmore. And we learn from Rabbi Akiva that a Jew with no Jewish

background can learn the entire Torah if he or she puts their mind to it.

As we enter our 36th year – Double Chai – we have much to be proud of. The Schechter Institute, under the leadership of Prof. Doron Bar, continues to run the largest M.A. program in Jewish studies in Israel, with 400 students and 1,750 graduates, who are teaching and inspiring tens of thousands of Israelis every day.

Rabbi Avi Novis-Deutsch has tripled the size of the Schechter Rabbinical Seminary. This past year, he added the Ashira program which taught over 50 laypeople how to chant the Friday night services; and the new "Torah for Its Own Sake" program at Neve Schechter in Tel Aviv.

Dr. Eitan Chikli and the TALI staff continue to grow and innovate. The number of children served by TALI has grown to 65,000. New programs include providing Jewish Culture textbooks to 100 non-TALI schools, the 10th grade Jewish Identity program, and the expanded Hallel program for TALI and non-TALI principals.

Yonit Kolb Reznitzki and her staff at Neve Schechter run the cutting-edge Jewish-Israeli Art Gallery and the 70 Voices Jewish Music program, while Rabbi Roberto Arbib conducted 76 Bnai Mitzvah and wedding ceremonies, for a total of 19,000 participants.

In Ukraine, after 28 years of "carving the hearts" of thousands of Jewish children, Gila Katz has retired and Rabbi Irina Gritsevskaya has taken over as Director of Midreshet Yerushalayim Ukraine. Together with Rabbi Reuven and Lena Stamov, our Shlichim in Kiev, they will continue the sacred work of reviving Jewish life in Ukraine.

Mount Rushmore was an impossible dream, yet it now attracts 2.3 million tourists yearly. Rabbi Akiva knew nothing, yet he became one of the greatest rabbis in Jewish history. The Schechter Institutes have grown from four students to become the largest provider of pluralistic Jewish Education in Israel. May we continue to "carve Jewish hearts" as we slowly but surely expand our Jewish education revolution throughout Israel and Ukraine.

**Rabbi Professor David Golinkin**  
**President**  
**The Schechter Institutes, Inc.**

# Schechter@35: Living Judaism

The Schechter Institutes celebrate their 35th anniversary this year. There is no better way to share this milestone than with the panoply of diversity and color that is the Schechter graduating class of 2019. Gracing the cover of this year's Annual Report, their words are a testament to the "Living Judaism" they found at Schechter. Their manifold backgrounds, professions, world views and beliefs are a fitting and profound reaffirmation of the Schechter educational mission and its success.

These graduates join the tens of thousands of Israelis of all ages who are "Living Judaism" daily through the myriad of pluralistic Jewish studies programs run by the Schechter Institute of Jewish Studies, Schechter Rabbinical Seminary, TAL Education Fund, Neve Schechter in Tel Aviv and Midreshet Schechter in Israel and Ukraine.

In the words of 2019 graduate Shlomit Meron: "Heschel has argued that Judaism must endure in order to strengthen the world with its values. I say that the Schechter Institutes must endure in order to strengthen Israel with their openness, intellectual honesty and love for Judaism and the Jewish people."



## Working with Your Heart

**Yael Segev, principal and educator in Ofakim for 44 years, today Deputy Mayor of Ofakim; Schechter M.A. graduate in Jewish Women's Studies**

Yael Segev first set eyes on Ofakim, a development town in Israel's western Negev desert, in 1972, where she completed her army service as a soldier-teacher. "What was here then?" she asks. "Almost nothing. But the people were warm. It was a loving place." For the next four decades, she returned that love, educating three generations of Ofakim residents.

After settling in Ofakim permanently, Yael worked her way up the ladder, from elementary school teacher to principal, to regional supervisor in the Ministry of Education. "I always loved the connection with the children. If you work with all your heart, you will reap success." The early years in Ofakim presented a myriad of challenges. "The city was populated by immigrants, mainly from North Africa," explains Yael. Working with large families coping with the challenges of a new culture and economic hardship, Yael remembers that "they gave their children much warmth and love, and always instilled in them respect for their teachers."

Yael grew up in a traditional home in Jerusalem. While she was keen to augment her knowledge of Judaism, she was fearful of religious coercion. Studying at Schechter proved to be the most "rewarding experience" of her life. Setting out every Thursday at 6:00 am with three colleagues, the long day daunted them not. "We never missed a class!" she says. "At Schechter, we learned about the different streams in Judaism. This is where religious pluralism came to life for me. I also realized how crucial it is to build a strong Jewish identity curriculum within our school, especially for the many students who came from the FSU, where they had little or no Jewish background."

Yael retired from teaching three years ago, but her community service has only grown. Last year, the Mayor of Ofakim, Yitzhak Danino, approached Yael to join the city council as Deputy Mayor. She agreed. "Do Good. That is the value that moves me forward in life."

In 2019-2020, the Jewish Federation of Greater MetroWest New Jersey and Partnership2Gether, working closely with the Mayor and Deputy Mayor, will invest in the Schechter-Ofakim connection, enabling the Schechter Institute of Jewish Studies to offer study opportunities for Ofakim-based educators.

**"At Schechter, we learned about the different streams in Judaism. This is where religious pluralism came to life for me. I also realized how crucial it is to build a strong Jewish identity curriculum within our school, especially for the many students who came from the FSU, where they had little or no Jewish background."**



## I Will Sing Praises

**Osnat Bensoussan Farouz**, CEO of a software development company; Student, *Ashira* Jewish Music program

**“Our group connected to each other and to Judaism through a profound shared experience of our sacred Jewish texts. Ashira’s faculty has brought music and Judaism together in a way that has truly elevated me.”**

“Simplicity” is a word that Osnat Bensoussan, 47, returns to frequently when describing her childhood and the world her parents built for their three children. Yet Osnat and the life she leads today are anything but simple. She is a gifted woman, full of complexity and depth, where classical music and cantata mingle easily with the lilt of Moroccan piyutim (liturgical poems); running a software company co-exists with graduate degrees in philosophy and English literature. Osnat’s deep passion for knowledge and excellence brings these disparate worlds together.

Osnat’s mother and father immigrated to Israel from Morocco in 1965. They were highly educated and steeped in the French ideals of liberty, fraternity and equality which they lovingly passed on to Osnat and her younger sister and brother. They were also traditional Jews. “We grew up with the special foods, the ceremonies, the synagogue,” says Osnat. “We deeply experienced the texture and nuance of Sephardic religious life.”

A prayer leader of Degel Yehuda, an egalitarian Sephardic community, “only now as a student in *Ashira*, do I realize how much I didn’t know!” says Osnat. “The program has taught me when and how to sing the prayers, and most important, the history and traditions linked to the prayers.” Osnat joined *Ashira’s* inaugural class of 53 students in December 2018. The cohort studied in three tracks – Sephardic, Ashkenazic and Contemporary Liturgy – delving into the music, the structure and meaning of prayer and receiving performance coaching.

Osnat came to *Ashira* to enhance her music knowledge and creative expression. She left the four-month program with much more. “Our group connected to each other and to Judaism through a profound shared experience of our sacred Jewish texts. *Ashira’s* faculty has brought music and Judaism together in a way that has truly elevated me.”

Osnat’s dream? “It is not enough to teach women the traditional melodies, which I have been doing for some time. Real success will be when I have instilled in my own community members the confidence to lead community prayer. Then ‘I Will Sing Praises’ – *Ashira Tehillot* – to God.”





**“TALI has taken the teaching of Judaism out of its formal framework, which by and large, can be boring, inflexible and unappealing to 16-year-olds. Our message is that Judaism can be many things: religion, tradition, culture, experience. We are telling participants that taking ownership of our Jewish heritage does not necessarily mean you have to be observant.”**

## Jump-starting the Jewish Israeli Conversation

**Ayala Menzin, facilitator for TALI's new 10th grade Jewish Israeli Identity Seminar**

You can't miss Ayala Menzin. With her fiery green eyes and a smile to match, she pulls you into her orbit. Maybe that is why the teenagers assigned to her TALI Jewish Israeli identity workshop can't seem to get enough of her... pushing their intensive three-day encounter way into the wee hours of the morning.

Ayala, 23, joined the TALI creative team of 15 facilitators and curriculum writers in spring 2018. Since then, the pilot for this Jewish Israeli identity program for 10th graders has reached a thousand kids with a curriculum that coaxes them into confronting their Jewish identities in 21st century Israel. Schools commit to a weekly two-hour lesson for the year which culminates in an experiential 3-day seminar on Jewish Israeli identity.

“TALI has taken the teaching of Judaism out of its formal framework, which by and large, can be boring, inflexible and unappealing to 16-year-olds,” explains Ayala. “Our message is that Judaism can be many things: religion, tradition, culture, experience. We are telling participants that taking ownership of our Jewish heritage does not necessarily mean you have to be observant.”

Growing up in a Tel Aviv home that identified with Conservative Judaism, Ayala spent her formative years with the NOAM youth movement at the Havurat Tel Aviv congregation. “It was there that I met my closest friends and where I learned that Judaism is fun. It is song. It is music in prayer,” explains Ayala. She became a NOAM counselor, completed a year of national service after high school and enlisted in the IDF.

Taking her personal experience into the classroom, Ayala empowers students to ask the most fundamental of existential questions – who am I? – at a life-defining moment in their lives, on the cusp of adulthood and before they enter the army. “TALI has created a new avenue for dialogue. Relying much less on printed texts and heavily on short films, songs and games, we've been able to jump-start a conversation on personal and collective identity that ultimately will help these kids better define themselves as Jews and Israelis,” says Ayala.



**“Neve Schechter provides a pluralistic platform where all narratives can be heard. This is a place that fuses Jewish community with continuity, void of any religious coercion.”**

## To Build an Installation is to Build a World

**Sigalit Landau, Israeli sculptor, video and installation artist, frequent contributor to Neve Schechter art exhibits, author of *Salt Years***

Sigalit Landau’s south Tel Aviv studio is nestled amongst the dirt and oil of mechanic shops, the pungent smells of a fish market, a new WeWork location, with the spires of Jaffa’s St. Peter’s Church looming in the distance. As Sigalit enters her workspace, a salt mandala is suspended over her head like a halo. Soft-spoken and articulate, the artist’s every word is measured and infused with meaning.

A concept artist of international standing, Landau, 50, has shown her works in leading museums and galleries in New York, London, Paris, Berlin, Tel Aviv and Jerusalem, representing Israel twice at the prestigious Venice Biennale. “I was barely out of art school (Bezalel) when the Israel Museum asked me to do a one-woman show,” she says. The installation, entitled “Temple Mount” set her career in motion.

Growing up in a post-Six-Day War Jerusalem greatly influenced both Landau’s worldview and her art. “We lived on the seam, both sociological and topographical; between Arab and Jew, the sacred and the profane, the modern and the ancient,” she explains. “Maybe that is why the ‘bridge’ motif has always run so strongly through much of my work, connecting past to future; west to east, feminine to masculine.”

This passion for welding opposites has resulted in a burgeoning relationship between the artist and Tel Aviv’s Neve Schechter Center for Jewish Culture. Landau has shown her works there in three group exhibits and in the highly acclaimed 2016 solo show, “Covenant of Salt”, based on her unique use of salt extracted from the Dead Sea. “Neve Schechter provides a pluralistic platform where all narratives can be heard. This is a place that fuses Jewish community with continuity, void of any religious coercion,” says Landau.

Through her close personal relationships with Rabbi Roberto Arbib, leader of the Masorti congregation, and Shira Friedman, gallery curator, Landau has found a natural home in Neve Schechter. “Roberto’s door is always open, while Shira provides me with the sub-text and the encouragement I need to mount art that reflects who I am as a woman, an Israeli, and a Jew.”



**“I would be honored to serve the Jewish community of Kharkov and I am convinced that Conservative Judaism – the middle way – best suits the spiritual needs of the vast majority of this city’s Jews.”**

## Serving Community and Academia

**Yuri Amir Radchenko, Director of the Center for Inter-Ethnic Relations in Eastern Europe; Jewish activist in Kiev and Kharkov**

There is a warmth and an eagerness one senses in the voice of Yuri Radchenko as this young man enters a new and significant chapter in his life. Yuri officially joined the Jewish people in July 2019 in a Conservative conversion ceremony in Madrid. “From the time I was a teenager, I always believed in one God. But the question always remained, which is the best way to serve God? I found the answer in Conservative Judaism,” explains Yuri.

With eight languages under his belt, including Hebrew, Yuri, 33, is a serious academic. Growing up in Kharkov, Ukraine’s second largest city, he felt the weight of history all around him, and in time, the need to contribute to an understanding of this history. Yuri’s dissertation, *Nazi Genocide of Ukrainian Jews in the Military-Administered Area, (1941-1943)*, earned him a PhD from Kharkov University in 2012. He admits that his decision to convert to Judaism might partially be motivated by a sense of collective guilt. “In both my professional and personal life, I am working to preserve the Jewish people, its culture and heritage in Ukraine. One could say I am helping to restore the Jewish life that was lost here.”

Yuri spent last year in Kiev with Rabbi Reuven Stamov’s Kehillat Masoret, where he studied for his upcoming conversion, as well as assumed an active role in this vibrant Jewish community. As part of his studies, he joined a Schechter-sponsored online course where he learned how to read from the Torah and to lead prayers. “The class was truly inspiring and gave me essential synagogue skills,” says Yuri.

Today, Yuri is back in Kharkov contemplating his next move. Building a strong Conservative community in his hometown is high on his list. With 50,000 Jews in Kharkov including a Schechter-supported Jewish day school of 120 children, there is definitely a pool of potential congregants from which to draw. “I would be honored to serve the Jewish community of Kharkov and I am convinced that Conservative Judaism – the middle way – best suits the spiritual needs of the vast majority of this city’s Jews.”



# The Graduate School

Chair, Board of Trustees:  
**Saul I. Sanders**

Chair, Executive Committee:  
**Jonathan Steinberg**

President:  
**Prof. Doron Bar**

Executive Vice President:  
**Eitan Cooper**

Dean: **Dr. Tamar Kadari**

## Numbers 2018-19

- 400 students, including 120 first-year students
- 74 faculty members, 17 full-time, 57 part-time
- 12 interdisciplinary M.A. tracks of Jewish Studies
- 73 graduates in 2019; 1756 graduates since 1994
- 5 books published
- 19 conferences/study events

## Academic News

### Faculty Awards and Appointments

Dr. Gila Vachman was appointed Lecturer in Midrash.

Dr. Noa Yuval Chacham is the new Kekst Faculty Fellow for 2019-21. She is a Lecturer in Land of Israel Studies and also coordinates the Judaism and the Arts and Land of Israel M.A. programs.

Prof. David Golinkin received an honorary doctorate from JTS in May 2019 for his work championing Conservative Judaism in North America and Israel and for making invaluable contributions to the understanding and development of Jewish Law.

Prof. Bat-Sheva Margalit Stern, Associate Professor of History, received the prestigious Yitzhak Ben-Zvi Eretz Yisrael Research Prize for her biography of Ada Fishman, May 2019.

Dr. Dror Bondi, lecturer in Jewish Thought, received the Mifal Hapayis Prize for Art and Culture in support of his new book, *A.J. Heschel, As Refracted through the Generations*, July 2019

### Faculty Retirements

Dr. Alexander Even-Chen, former Dean of the Graduate School, respected expert on A.J. Heschel and beloved lecturer in Jewish Thought, is retiring after many years of teaching.

### Graduation Ceremony

73 Schechter M.A. degrees were conferred on May 28, 2019 in Jerusalem, with graduates coming from as far as Misgav in the north and Beersheva in the south. Keynote speaker was former MK Aliza Lavie.

## New Academic Initiatives

### Schechter Receives Prestigious EU Grant for Academic Collaboration

The Schechter Institute and the Protestant Theological University (PThU), after many years of research cooperation, have expanded their ties to formal student and staff exchanges, with the support of the EU Erasmus+ Grant of more than 50,000 euro. The agreement was signed at a festive ceremony at Schechter in the presence of His Excellency the Ambassador of the Netherlands to Israel, Mr. Gilles Beschoor-Plug. In addition to planned student exchanges, Dr. Einat Ramon (Pastoral Care) and Dr. David Frankel (Bible) will teach courses at PThU, with PThU faculty to teach at Schechter. Over the summer, Prof. Doron Bar and Dr. Tamar Kadari traveled to Amsterdam to lecture with PThU colleague Dr. Lieve Teugels teaching in Jerusalem. Dr. Paul Mandel coordinates the partnership.



This page, from top:  
Festive signing ceremony between PThU Netherlands and Schechter faculty, in the presence of Dutch Ambassador to Israel, Gilles Beschoor-Plug.  
M.A. students in class.  
Graduates of the Maccabee Community Leadership program.



### European Interest in Schechter Grows

In addition to the impressive ties forged with the Dutch PThU, 15 students from the University of Vienna spent a morning at Schechter studying Bible and Archeology with Schechter students in November 2018 and forty German theological students studied Midrash with Dr. Tamar Kadari in January 2019.

### Golinkin Chair in TALI Jewish Education Advances Jewish Pluralism

Dr. Ari Ackerman, as the first incumbent of the Golinkin Chair in TALI Jewish Education, organized a teacher training seminar for educators of the Yehud High School, the second largest high school in Israel. He also initiated a new program for TALI leadership in which leading academics addressed the educational challenges of the 21st century. Ackerman also taught TALI principals and educators in the *Halleli* professional development program and accompanied them on an educational seminar to New York.

### Bible Takes Center Stage

The new interdisciplinary Bible track took off to an excellent start in its first year, attracting 13 students. Hundreds more attended three public lectures on *Bible and Psychology, Archaeology and Literature* that were held at Schechter. Dr. Sarah Schwartz, track coordinator, has ambitious plans for the program whose curriculum stresses Jewish-Israeli identity. In addition to adding courses on *Bible and Gender* and *Leadership in the Bible*, she is planning an innovative course on *New Ways to Teach Bible* in order to bring more teachers to the program. "Teachers are Israel's most important agents of change and the Bible must return to being our people's natural lodestone," says Schwartz.

### Informed Creations Partners Schechter with Jerusalem Art School

"Informed Creations" (Ma'aseh Hoshev), a joint venture of the Judaism and Arts track and HaKubia Art School, grew to 18 students. The course, *Jerusalem of the Heavens and the Earth*, combined guided tours of the city with Prof. Doron Bar and a painting class with Hakubia Director and artist Dan Ormian. A final exhibit of graduates' works – Mini-Israel – took place at HaKubia in July 2019.

### Zion and the Diaspora Think Tank Presents Research

An international conference on *Zion and the Diaspora in the Past, Present and Future* took place at Schechter in June 2019. The full-day symposium was the culmination of a year-long interdisciplinary study of the subject by top-level scholars and intellectuals from Israel and the Diaspora, headed by Schechter's Prof. Yossi Turner. Proceedings of the conference, which traced the Zion-Diaspora relationship from the Biblical period through the 21st century, will be published in the coming year.





### Maccabee for the Community

*Maccabee* (acronym for Community Leadership in the Jewish Spirit), in partnership with the Community Center Association, is today one of Schechter's most popular M.A. tracks. The course combines Jewish studies with practical tools for building strong community-based leadership. The program boasts 33 students and 20 graduates since its inception 5 years ago – all professionals engaged in their communities across Israel.

### Marpeh Leads in Spiritual Care

Marpeh, with 31 spiritual care students and a waiting list every year, is the only academic chaplaincy (CPE) program in Israel. Integrating M.A. studies with fieldwork, the program serves over 200 clients in hospital oncology and dialysis units, senior residences and nursing homes, youth-at-risk centers and more. **Dr. Einat Ramon**, founding director of Marpeh, has published *Truth and Kindness: A Sourcebook for Chaplains* in Hebrew (second edition) and in English.

### Adult Education Draws Hundreds to Schechter

Midreshet Schechter's **English and Hebrew Continuing Education Program**, now entering its fifth year, has earned a reputation for high-quality adult education while creating a new niche for student recruitment. In 2018-19, 300 adult learners enrolled in 22 courses given in English and Hebrew, including a 3-part walking tour series in the spring. Interest is high, with registration showing a 30% increase each semester over the last two years.

Left: Bible Series lecture with Rabbi Ilai Ofran.

From left:  
"Informed Creations" art comes to life.

Students of "Informed Creations" exhibit their final works at the HaKubia Art School, with Prof. Doron Bar and Dr. Noa Hacham, track advisor.

*Marpeh* student brings comfort to a patient at Hadassah Hospital.

## Scholarships and Endowments

- **William Davidson Scholarships** awarded to all first-year students.
- **Charles H. Revson Foundation Scholarships in Honor of Judge Simon Rifkind and Harry Meresman, for academic excellence and commitment to tolerance and pluralism** awarded to 5 exceptional first-year students and 5 second-year students
- **Prof. Alice Shalvi Scholarships for Outstanding Students in Judaism and the Arts and Gender and Women's Studies**, awarded to two students
- **The Prof. Louis Ginzberg Scholarships in Talmud or Midrash and Aggadah** awarded to two students
- **Kochav Trust Scholarships for Maccabee Community Engagement Program and for Development Towns and Disadvantaged Neighborhoods** awarded to 31 students
- **The Mimi and Barry Alperin Jewish Educator Scholarships** awarded to two exceptional students
- **The Dr. Aubey Rotenberg Memorial Scholarship** awarded to an exceptional student who is a teacher
- **Jewish Agency for Israel Jewish Renewal Scholarships for Maccabee Community Engagement Program** awarded to 25 students
- **The Edythe Griffinger Special Scholarship to Advance Jewish Education in Development Towns** awarded to an exceptional student
- **Anonymous Donor Scholarships for Students in Bible track** awarded to 13 students
- **The Gershon Kekst Memorial Scholarships for Maccabee Community Engagement** awarded to 2 students

# Schechter Scholarship for the Community



## New Books 2018-19

### Published by the Schechter Institute

- *Aseh Lekha Rav: Responsa*, David Golinkin, 2019 (Hebrew)
- *Shalom Aleichem: A Hebrew Reading Textbook*, Noah Golinkin, 2019 (Hebrew)
- *Midrash Ruth Rabbah: A Synoptic Edition* (online), Meron Bialik Lerner, 2019 (Hebrew)
- *NASHIM, A Journal of Jewish Women's Studies and Gender Issues*, academic editor, Renée Levine Melammed, managing editor, Deborah Greniman, a joint publication of the Schechter Institute, Hadassah-Brandeis Institute and Indiana University Press: No. 34, *Women in the Professions*, Sylvia Barack Fishman, managing editor, Spring 2019; No. 35, Fall 2019
- *Shir Le'ahavah: A Commentary on Shir Hashirim*, Benjamin Segal, 2019 (Hebrew)





Speakers at the Israel-US Jewry Conference, from left: Prof. Arnold Eisen, Rabbi Avi Novis-Deutsch, Prof. Dalia Marx, Prof. David Golinkin and Prof. Tova Hartman.

### Published by Schechter Faculty and Graduates

- *Talmud Ha-Igud: Bava Batra III*, Moshe Benovitz, Jerusalem: The Society for the Interpretation of the Talmud, 2018 (Hebrew)
- *Sava and Yanuka: God, the Son and the Messiah in Zoharic Narratives*, Jonathan Benarroch, Jerusalem: Hebrew University Magnes Press, 2018 (Hebrew) and *The Yanuqa of Rav Hamnuna Sava: Analysis and Critical Edition of the Yanuqa Story (Zohar III, 186a-192a)*, Los Angeles: Cherub Press, 2019 (Hebrew)
- *Studies in Abraham Joshua Heschel's Oeuvre*, eds. Dror Bondi, Benjamin Ish-Shalom, Ramat Gan: Idra Publishing, 2019 (Hebrew)
- *The Women of Teruel*, Zehava Chen Turiel, Tel Aviv: E-vrit Digital Publishing, 2018 (Hebrew)

## Conference on Israel-US Jewry: Continuing a Tradition of Excellence

*To Be a Jew in Israel and North America: Commonalities and Differences* was the theme of the 2nd Annual conference on the State of Israel and the Jews of North America which took place at Schechter in March 2019. Renowned scholars and cutting-edge research drew hundreds to the day-long conference and many more via its livestream feed. Speakers included Profs. Arnold Eisen, David Golinkin, Tova Hartman, David Roskies and Shmuel Rosner. The conference, generously funded by Saul and Mary Sanders and Robert Rifkind, was co-sponsored by JTS.

## Theodor Herzl: Focus of 4-part Lecture Series

An exciting series of lectures commemorating the 70th anniversary of the re-internment of Herzl on Mt. Herzl and coordinated by Schechter President Prof. Doron Bar, took place in Spring-Summer 2019. Co-sponsored by Schechter, the National Library of Israel and the Central Zionist Archives, the series, with lectures by Yigal Zalmona, Dr. Moti Friedman and Prof. Shlomo Avineri, culminated in a study day at the Herzl Museum on Mt. Herzl in August 2019.

Opposite page:  
Enjoying the launch of Moshe Benovitz's new book.

Below: Commemorating the re-internment of Herzl:  
Left: Former MK Alisa Lavie enjoys exhibit of Herzl artifacts.  
Right: Prof. Doron Bar explains geographic importance of Mt. Herzl in relation to Jerusalem.





## Schechter Hosts Important Book Launches

In spring 2019, Schechter launched a number of significant works of scholarship, including an evening dedicated to Moshe Benovitz's new book, *Talmud Ha-lgud: Bava Batra III*; an event for Prof. Hananel Mack and the Jubilee Volume published in his honor on *Biblical Commentaries in Rabbinic Literature and the Middle Ages* with remarks by Dr. Tamar Kadari; and an evening dedicated to the new partnership between the Zohar Chai Institute and Schechter's Jewish Thought M.A. program, with the book launch of four books on Kabbalah, organized by Schechter lecturer Biti Roi.

## Conferences and Lectures Sponsored by Schechter

- **Fourth Annual Pirkei Avot Lecture in memory of Dr. Aubey Rotenberg**, with Rabbi Ilai Ofran, at Schechter, December 2019
- **4-part lecture and field trip series on Theodor Herzl** in honor of the 70th anniversary of his re-burial in Israel, co-sponsored by the National Library and The Central Zionist Archives, March-August 2019
- **Mini-Israel – Art Exhibit of student projects** from the *Informed Creations* program, co-sponsored by Judaism and the Arts M.A. track and HaKubia Art School, July 2019
- **3-part Lecture Series on the Bible, *An Interdisciplinary Approach: Archaeology, Psychology and Literature***, May-July 2019



- **The Annual Rabbi David Aronson memorial lecture on *Female Leadership in Ancient Times: Esther and Judith***, with Dr. Adolfo Roitman, Curator, Shrine of the Book, June 2019
- **Zion and the Diaspora Conference**, June 2019
- **20th Annual National Women's Study Day**, with over 300 participants! At Schechter, co-sponsored by Women's League for Conservative Judaism and the Masorti Movement, June 2019
- **Book launch of four books on the Kabbalah**, co-sponsored by Zohar Chai Institute, June 2019
- **Annual Conference on Jewish Art**, co-sponsored by Bar Ilan University, at Bar Ilan, May 2019
- **Book launch for the Jubilee Volume in honor of Prof. Hananel Mack**, May 2019
- **Book launch of Prof. Moshe Benovitz's new edition and commentary to Bava Batra, Chapter 3**, May 2019





From left:

Profs. Moshe Benovitz and Shamma Friedman with their new book, *Talmud Ha-Igud*.

Prof. David Golinkin receives a JTS Honorary Doctorate from Prof. Arnold Eisen in New York.

Women's Study Day, from left: Janet Tobin, Diane Friedgut and Ilana Laderman Mushkin.

## Research Institutes

**The Center for Judaism and the Arts** includes the M.A. track in Judaism and the Arts and TAL's Virtual Midrash Electronic Archive – <http://www.tali-virtualmidrash.org.il> – which includes 850 explicated images of art relating to Biblical subjects.

**The Center for Women in Jewish Law** has published a series of 18 books and booklets by and about women in Jewish Law. Publications can be found at: <https://schechter.edu/product-category/womenjudaism/>

**The Institute of Applied Halakhah** publishes a library of Halakhic literature in Hebrew, English, and Russian for Jews throughout the world. It has to date published 26 popular and scholarly volumes. Publications can be found at: <https://schechter.edu/product-category/responsa/>

**The Midrash Project** is publishing a series of critical editions of Midrashim. Published to date: *Legends of the Jews, 2nd Hebrew edition, Midrash Shmuel, Midrash Hadash al HaTorah, Midrash Esther Rabbah and Kohelet Rabbah, Vol. 1;* with synoptic editions of *Midrash Ruth Rabbah, Midrash Shmuel, Esther Rabbah, Kohelet Rabbah* and *Shir Hashirim Rabbah* on Schechter websites.

- **Lectures and Reading of the Shoah Scroll in honor of Holocaust Memorial Day**, with Sabina Schweid and author Lilah Timor Asur, May 2019
- **13th Annual Conference on Women and Gender in Israel** in memory of Moshe Shalvi z"l, *Women at the Margins of Society*, March 2019
- **2nd Annual Conference on Israel-Diaspora Relations, To Be a Jew in Israel and North America: Commonalities and Differences**, co-sponsored by the Jewish Theological Seminary, March 2019
- **20th Annual Regional Women's Study Days**, co-sponsored by Women's League for Conservative Judaism and the Masorti Movement, February 2019

From left:

Speakers at the Zion and the Diaspora Conference, from left: Yossi Turner, Bat Sheva Margalit Stern, Yehoyada Amir, Dalia Marx, Avinoam Rosenak, Ari Ackerman, Shaul Magid, and Amnon Krokotzkin.

Morning prayers at the Women's Study Day at Schechter.



# Schechter Rabbinical Seminary



Chair, Board of Trustees  
and Executive Committee:  
Ilana Laderman Mushkin

Dean:  
Rabbi Avi Novis-Deutsch

Spiritual Mentor:  
Rabbi Dr. Reb Mimi Feigelson

## **SRS Expands in 2018-19**

The Schechter Rabbinical Seminary, the heart of educational and spiritual innovation for Masorti Judaism in Israel, continues to draw new and diverse populations of all ages and backgrounds to its leadership and rabbinic programs.

## Altogether, 281 students are currently enrolled in SRS:

- 20 rabbinical students
- 27 Mishlei students
- 32 students in the Torah Lishma programs in Jerusalem and Tel Aviv
- 22 JTS and Conservative Yeshiva students
- 53 students in the new Ashira Jewish music program
- 25 NOAM graduates meet at SRS once a month
- 40 special needs students in 4 Batei Midrash around the country
- 15 rabbis in online study
- **New!** 29 students in Ashira's pre-High Holiday liturgy study
- **New!** 21 students in Virtual Judaism – daily online study with SRS

## Celebrating over 100 Grads at 30th Ordination

The 30th SRS ordination ceremony will take place in Jerusalem in December 2019, followed by a festive reception to honor the more than 100 SRS rabbis ordained since 1988. In November 2018, four rabbis received ordination: **Rabbi Idit Mevorach Shaag** is program coordinator at Mechon Hadar, Jerusalem; **Rabbi Irina Gritsevsckaya** is the new director of Midreshet Yerushalayim-Ukraine programs and of Midreshet Schechter Israel; **Rabbi Raanan Mallek** is the new rabbi of Shorashim and works in interfaith dialogue and **Rabbi Yarden Raber** is Rabbi of the Masorti community in Lima, Peru.



A day of learning in the Bet Midrash.

2018 Ordination Ceremony, from left: Rabbi Avi Novis-Deutsch, Irina Gritsevsckaya, Idit Mevorach Shaag, Raanan Mallek and Yarden Raber.





## New Initiatives 2018-19

### 2nd Torah Lishma Program Opens in Tel Aviv

Due to the success of the Torah Lishma program in Jerusalem, a second program opened in Tel Aviv's Neve Schechter in September 2018 (see page 27). Altogether, 32 students with little previous knowledge of Jewish sources came together to study classic Jewish texts in a traditional Bet Midrash setting. Creating meaningful programming that balances serious Jewish learning with a positive communal experience is the secret to Torah Lishma's growing numbers.

### Ashira: First the Musical Experience, Now the App

In Fall 2018, SRS launched *Ashira*, the first program to teach lay prayer leaders. Exceeding all expectations, *Ashira*'s enrollment got to 53 students from diverse backgrounds and communities never before reached by SRS programs. An innovator in welding both music and communities to prayer, the program offered three tracks of liturgical study: Ashkenazic, Sephardic and Contemporary Liturgy. The first *Ashira* cohort was invited to co-lead a Shavuot session at Beit Avi Chai in Jerusalem as well as to lead a session for the Honey Foundation for Israel. Most recently, *Ashira* offered a *Days of Awe* pre-high holiday program which attracted 29 prayer leaders. (See profile, page 6.)

JTS and SRS joint study session. Rabbi Matt Berkowitz and Prof. Arnold Eisen are in the background.

### The Ashira App in Memory of Tamir Sapir z"l

Debuting in November 2019, the App is designed to share *Nusach* and prayer melodies worldwide. Sustained funding is needed to ensure the success of this technology that could literally bring *Ashira* and Schechter into thousands of houses of prayer.

### Virtual Learning Community

21 SRS graduates and students are learning in SRS's newest initiative: a virtual Bet Midrash, led by Dean Rabbi Avi Novis-Deutsch. The first courses which began in June 2019 covered Mishnah and Halakhah.

### Mishlei Community Outreach and Renewal

The *Mishlei* program is designed for emerging leaders of Jewish renewal. The two-year M.A. program stresses the strong Jewish connection between academic studies and communal service. *Mishlei*'s popularity continues to grow, with 27 students currently enrolled in the program. Each year, a proportion of *Mishlei* graduates continue on for rabbinic studies. Since *Mishlei* started eight years ago, eleven graduates have continued for rabbinic studies, with five receiving ordination so far.





From left:  
Closing Seminar for *Ashira* Jewish Music Program.

Interfaith study with Jerusalem's Tantur Ecumenical Center.

### **Derachim (Ways) New Media Project**

The Derachim New Media Project for Pluralism and Tolerance, in memory of Rabbi Marc and Dr. Henia z'l Liebhaber, has produced 47 videos for social media that have reached over 235,000 viewers. The short films depict the diversity and richness of Jewish life through interviews with leading Israelis from the media and arts, academia and the public sphere.

### **NOAM graduates study at Schechter**

"Seven Days of the Week" was launched last year for NOAM graduates participating in a "gap-year" of national service before entering the army. The talented group of 25 young leaders spent one day a month engaged in high level studies at the Bet Midrash. Conceived and supervised by Dean Rabbi Avi Novis-Deutsch, NOAM director Yair Zafrany and NOAM Rabbi, Schechter graduate Rabbi Yerach Meiersdorf, the year-long project strengthened the students' connection to Torah and their dialogue with Jewish sources.

### **"Betzavta" for the Special Needs Community**

"Betzavta", now entering its third year, is a first-of-its-kind Bet Midrash study program for adults with cognitive disabilities. The program today reaches 40 participants in four cities. The 10 one-hour study sessions, a joint project of SRS, AKIM's Institute for Cognitive Accessibility and the Adraba Masorti Center, are supervised and taught by SRS students. The program provides expertise in working with this important underserved community, while providing the students with a rich values-based learning experience.

### **ZOOMing in for the Holidays**

SRS continued its successful series of Holiday Webinars for rabbis worldwide. Taught by Rabbis Avi-Novis-Deutsch, David Golinkin and Mimi Feigelson, the online learning in Hebrew (8 sessions to date) reached dozens of rabbis in the U.S., Israel, England, Argentina and Brazil.

### **Rabbinic Intern Program: Strengthening Students and Kehillot**

SRS has increased the level of partnership with the Masorti Movement, reflecting the belief that the training of outstanding spiritual leaders must include practical experience in Masorti communities. Today, SRS students are interning in 13 communities around Israel, learning invaluable skills while giving back to the community.

### **The Importance of Interfaith Programming**

A group of Catholic priests spent a day of study with SRS rabbinical students in October 2018. The encounter was initiated by Rabbi Raanan Malek and the Tantur Ecumenical Center. Through shared texts, the group examined ways to overcome prejudice and build bridges between the two faiths. SRS is a member of the Interreligious Coordinating Council in Israel (ICCI).





# TALI

## Education Fund

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

Susan and Scott Shay  
Director General:  
**Rabbi Dr. Eitan Chikli**

TALI is Israel's largest pluralistic in-school Jewish studies program. Reaching more than 65,000 children and 3,000 educators in over 300 public schools and preschools throughout the country, TALI's myriad programs and curricula make the beauty of Judaism accessible to growing numbers of diverse Israeli communities.

### **Growing Ties with Ministry of Education and Municipalities**

Israel's Ministry of Education significantly increased its funding of TALI programs in 2018-19. The TALI Education Fund (TEF) was charged with professional development program and preparing curricula – both textbooks and videos – for the Jewish-Israeli Culture program throughout Israel. TEF also works closely with municipalities and the Ministry of Education. As a result, all elementary schools in Yokne'am and Ma'ale Adumim are affiliated with TALI.



Opposite page:  
Schoolchildren at the TALI Shirat Halev  
Music Festival.

## Numbers 2018-19

- 303 TALI frameworks serving 65,000 pupils: 77 elementary schools, two middle schools, four high schools and 220 pre-schools
- Halleli Professional Development: 116 participants took part in five tracks, double last year's numbers!
- 10th Grade Jewish Israeli Identity Program: 4 high schools with 1,000 students in year-long pilot program
- Experiential Education: schools ordered 30% more workshops than last year, with 272 workshops reaching more than 30,000 students
- 100 non-TALI schools using TALI textbooks
- Dialogue and Identity Coexistence Program for Jewish and Arab children: 24 schools, 71 lead staff with 720 participants
- 13 pedagogic counselors provided guidance to over 2,200 teachers in 77 schools
- 17 TALI school rabbis/spiritual educators worked in 41 TALI schools
- 14 schools initiated enrichment programs with TALI professional development guidance
- 2 "Shirat Halev" regional music and dance festivals with 1,150 students from 18 schools



## Jewish Identity Program Grows to 12 High Schools

*From Identity Card to Identity Consciousness*, a curriculum designed to engage Israeli 10th graders with their Jewish Israeli identity, was successfully launched this year. Four high schools with 1,000 10th graders participated in the year-long program, comprised of 12 units, some accompanied by videos. Five 3-day experiential seminars were held for the students with nearly 100 teachers and 24 program counselors participating. In 2019-20, 12 high schools will be participating in the program. (See profile, page 7).

Clockwise from top:

Dialogue and Identity students from the TALI HaHita School, Zichron Ya'akov with students from the El Mutran School, Nazareth.

10th graders from the Leo Baeck High School in Haifa show off their new Identity Cards at a Jewish Israeli Identity seminar.

Hearts of Friendship are formed in the Dialogue and Identity Program between Arab students from the Orthodox School in Jaffa and TALI students from the Tzukim School in Shoham.





## TALI Explores Partnership with Schools Bringing Together Students from Secular and Observant Families

As of fall 2019, TALI launched a pilot program for six schools that brings together secular and observant students. This unique education system serves families across the observance spectrum. The TALI Education Fund will be the main provider of pedagogical and curricular support.

A research group headed by Dr. Ari Ackerman, Golinkin Chair in TALI Jewish Education, and Dr. Eitan Chikli, Susan and Scott Shay TALI Director General, is currently studying the impact of joint secular-religious education on children and their families, as well as the ramifications of a joint curriculum on the school's culture.



## Halleli Program at the Heart of TALI Quality Education

*Halleli*, TALI's newest Professional Development course, now entering its third year, has succeeded beyond all projections. 116 educators learned in 5 different tracks in various locales throughout Israel. Providing a Bet Midrash atmosphere for the development of new ideas and interpretations, *Halleli's* curriculum combines age-old texts with contemporary pedagogy in order to explore the Jewish-Israeli experience. This life-changing experience culminated in three educational missions to New York for participants to learn about Jewish education and Jewish pluralism in North America. *Continued Growth in 2019-20*: Four new *Halleli* groups, including 2 new courses in Haifa and Beersheva for non-TALI principals in partnership with the Ministry of Education; continuing tracks and a pilot class for *Halleli* alumni, totaling 8 tracks.

## 10th Genger Prize for TALI Excellence Awarded

The Deborah and Shraga Genger Prize for TALI Excellence was awarded to three TALI schools in Karmiel, Ma'ale Adumim and Givat Ella in November 2018. The ceremony, held in Modi'in, celebrated the work of outstanding educators who promote pluralistic Jewish education in Israel's secular public school system. The prize, established by Arye Genger, also honored four early-childhood educators from Eilat, Kibbutz Nir David, Bet Shemesh and Nes Tziona.



Genger Prize for TALI Excellence Award Ceremony. From left: David Golinkin, Roni Yannay, Sarit Angel-Or, Principal of Nofei Haselah School, Ma'aleh Adumim, Avi Lavsky, Eitan Chikli and Itay Hacohen.



## Textbook/Curriculum Initiatives

10th grade curriculum on Jewish/Israeli identity, *From Identity Card to Identity Consciousness*, was introduced to the high schools participating in the pilot program. Divided into two parts: *Who Am I?* (individual) and *Who Are We?* (community and peoplehood), the curriculum utilizes texts, short videos and activities.

*To Work and to Protect Environmental Education Kit* (grades 1-6, with 20 learning stations) was completed this year. Allowing several classes to explore multiple stations at once, the Kit introduces the concepts of man's relationship to nature; conservation/avoiding waste; cruelty to animals and more.

## TALI Curricula for South America

A comprehensive curriculum on the Jewish holidays for South America has been completed. Translated into Spanish and Portuguese, these important materials, accompanied by TALI pedagogical supervision, are distributed in 30 Jewish Day Schools throughout South and Central America including Argentina, Brazil, Uruguay, Paraguay, Chile and Ecuador.

From left:  
Halleli Supervisors' Track Seminar in Modi'in.

Halleli educational mission to New York meets with colleagues at JTS.

*To Work and To Protect Environmental Education Kit* finds a receptive audience.

## DigiTALI Media

### "Jewish Bookshelf" for Kids Goes Viral

A series of 12 short films introducing the "Jewish Bookshelf" to Israeli children was produced by TALI, in partnership with the Ministry of Education. This series received tens of thousands of views and numerous positive comments.

### TALI Websites Gain New Viewers

The new TALI website launched last year with improved SEO and easier accessibility of online materials is also the gateway to additional websites on Jewish Spirituality, Rosh Hodesh, Organ Donation, Virtual Midrash and Jewish/Israeli culture. Altogether, these sites receive more than 12,000 hits a month.

Bat ella Birnbaum, TALI Music Director, conducts Shirat Halev Music Festival in Ashkelon.





# Neve Schechter Legacy Heritage Center for Jewish Culture

Executive Director:  
**Yonit Kolb-Reznitzki**

Development  
Coordinator:  
**Romina Reisin**

Curator:  
**Shira Friedman**

## Neve Schechter: A Magnet for Jewish Renewal

Neve Schechter, located in Tel Aviv's trendy Neve Tzedek neighbourhood, draws thousands of visitors to its world-class concerts, art exhibitions, literary events, and Jewish learning classes – all of which engage the public in an exciting and meaningful dialogue between contemporary Israeli life and our Jewish sources.

## Numbers 2018-19

19,000 people attended lectures, holiday events and exhibits during the year, with an average of 1,600 participants a month, including thousands of worshippers and guests who attended 76 Bar and Bat Mitzvah ceremonies in the Atid Sanctuary.

## The Masorti Community of Neve Tzedek

Neve Schechter houses the Masorti Congregation of Neve Zedek, led by **Rabbi Roberto Arbib**, which embraces families and individuals who seek an inclusive and spiritual community. In the heart of secular Tel Aviv, the community continues to expand its base of young families.

- **76 children and their parents held their Bar or Bat Mitzvah in the Atid Sanctuary** of the Masorti community of Neve Zedek.
- **15 weddings and 8 Britot** were also held.

## Celebrating the Holidays

- **High Holiday Programming:** *Slichot*: special concert of liturgical poetry in the Atid Sanctuary. Liturgy for the High Holidays and Succot; September-October 2019
- **Tisha B'av:** Screening of "The Hidden", a family's unraveling acts as a metaphor for the destruction of the Temple; discussion with its director, Nahar Shabtay, August 2019
- **Shavuot:** All night study with writers, poets and musicians on "Wandering," June 2019
- **Holocaust Memorial Day:** Documentary film and lecture on David Vogel, 20th century Hebrew poet and writer murdered in Auschwitz, May 2019
- **Purim:** Reading of Megillat Esther followed by musical family event, March 2019
- **Tu B'shvat:** Photography workshop for special education students, with exhibit opening, January 2019
- **Hanukkah/Kislev Happenings:** Concert, candle lighting and art exhibit, December 2018

## "Torah for Its Own Sake" Opens in Tel Aviv

Based on the highly successful model running in Jerusalem at the Schechter Rabbinical Seminary (see page 20), a Torah Lishma program taught by Schechter faculty opened in Fall 2018 in the Atid Sanctuary. Students from all backgrounds grappled with Talmudic texts in a year-long program led by **Dr. Gila Vachman**. One-time lectures included "Jewish Art Curating" with **Shira Friedman**; "History of Israeli Music" with **Dr. Naomi Cohn Zentner** and "The Books Outside the Jewish Canon" with **Dr. Adolfo Roitman**, curator of Jerusalem's Shrine of the Book.



Opposite page:  
Rock band "Tractor's Revenge" with their version of Selichot.

Above, from the top:  
Annual Purim Ball.

Rabbi Roberto Arbib kicks off Hanukkah concert with lighting of the Menorah.

Torah Lishma learning in the Atid Sanctuary.



## 70 Voices

This innovative musical project in honor of **Dr. Richard Braun** celebrated its third year with nine sold-out performances, with each concert acting as a bridge between contemporary music and ancient Jewish texts:

- **Maureen Nehedar:** acclaimed Israeli singer and composer infused life into Persian Traditional Liturgy, September 2019
- **Shira Z. Carmel:** Interactive music session fusing ancient and contemporary Hebrew texts and melodies, June 2019
- **Shay Ben Tzur:** Musical journey to the spiritual/cultural world of Sufi music with influences from the West, April 2019
- **Ensemble "El Ayin":** trio of musicians combines traditional Persian music with ancient Middle Eastern mysticism, April 2019
- **The Piyyut Ensemble Plays Purim:** 50 musicians and liturgical poets perform the story of Esther, Andalusian style, March 2019
- **Sounds of the Oud:** Legendary band that brought Yemenite/Mizrahi music out of obscurity in the 1970s, March 2019
- **The Poetry of Avraham Sutzkever:** A tribute to this greatest of Yiddish poets in a mix of live music and video, by Assaf Talmudi and band, January 2019
- **Liron Meyuhas and AVEVA:** Hanukkah concert of hope with African/Israeli and Sephardic/Gypsy music, December 2018
- **Avot Yeshurun Musical Tribute:** acclaimed 20th century Hebrew poet honored by musical trio Carmi Zisapel, Eran Weitz and Shai Tzabari, November 2018
- **The Tractor's Revenge:** Legendary Israeli rock band puts a spin on liturgical poems of longing and forgiveness, September 2018

## The Bible as Literature

Prominent Israeli authors, including **Dror Mishani, Ya'ara Schori** and **Roy Hasan**, added their own unique voice to literary readings of the Book of Genesis in a 7-part lecture series held from October-December 2018.

## Neve Schechter Hosts Book Launches

Neve Schechter hosted a number of book launches in 2018-19, including:

- *Agadot Amitiot (True Stories)* by Shoham Smith, a children's book on the lives of fifty inspiring Israeli women in the 20th and 21st centuries, July 2019
- *Men*, anthology of short stories, illustrations and memoirs by Israeli authors, in *Petal, Vol. 7*, a respected literary journal, May 2019
- *The Niche for Lights*, by Al-Ghazali, a new Hebrew translation of a work by one of the most influential theologians of Sunni Islam which greatly influenced Jewish mysticism, April 2019
- *The Line Flowing Beneath Your Hand*, by Mathura, the first Hebrew translation of a collection of poems by this Estonian author, February 2019



## “Ethics of the Fathers” An Annual Event

The Annual Pirkei Avot Lecture in Memory of Dr. Aubey Rotenberg z”l took place in October 2018 with poet Eliaz Cohen and Kabbalah scholar Dr. Neta Sobol, moderated by Shiri Lev-Ari.

## The Neve Schechter Story

*Cinema Tel Aviv* is a 12-minute film produced by Neve Schechter in Hebrew and English, highlighting 130 years of Tel Aviv’s history through the cultural heroes of Neve Zedek.

Below: The National Conference of Art Teachers was held in the Simha and Sara Lainer Bet Midrash.



From left:  
Multi-media tribute to Yiddishist Avraham Sutzkever.  
Concert in the Neve Schechter courtyard.  
Opening exhibit of *Athens in Tel Aviv* in the Schechter Gallery.

## Schechter Gallery News

### Seven Exhibits and New Space for Young Artists

The Schechter Gallery hosted seven art exhibits this year, offering new and thought-provoking interpretations of Jewish holidays, customs, rituals, and texts. Curated by Shira Friedman, they were enriched by monthly gallery events.

- **Bethlehem:** a transformational moment in the Book of Ruth, when Naomi leaves Bethlehem and then returns together with Ruth, is newly interpreted by artist Leor Grady, June-August 2019
- **TBQ:** a video-art trilogy (Torah, Bible and Quran) where Shahar Marcus and Nezaket Ekici re-infuse an aura of holiness into sacred books that have grown old and tattered, April-May 2019
- **Splendor:** Dina Goldstein depicts the sensuality and physical beauty found in the pages of Megillat Esther, March 2019
- **Athens in Tel Aviv:** group exhibit of contemporary Israeli sculpture on family ties and Biblical stories, November 2018-February 2019
- **Tomorrow’s ‘Greats’: Here and Now,** The gallery has dedicated space in the upper lobby to exhibits of young, not yet discovered Israeli artists. Atar Geva, Guy Levi and Avner Sher were the first to mount solo exhibits.
- **The “Artists’ Lab”** in The Morris and Beverly Baker Foundation Art Room, is home to three Israeli artists whose works contribute to Jewish-Israeli cultural life.

### Ministry of Education Discovers Schechter Gallery

The National Conference of Art Teachers, an annual event of the Israel Ministry of Education, was held this year in Neve Schechter in December. More than 150 art teachers from around the country took a guided tour of the Schechter Gallery with curator Shira Friedman and artist Sigalit Landau. (see page 8)

### In the Bet Midrash

In addition to the successful Torah Lishma program launched this year, adult education courses included: *Maimonides’s Guide for the Perplexed* and *The Secrets of the Zohar*, taught by Rabbi Roberto Arbib; Women’s Rosh Hodesh study, Talmud study and more.



# Midreshet Schechter & Midreshet Yerushalayim

Pedagogic Supervisor,  
Midreshet Yerushalayim,  
Ukraine:

**Gila Katz**

Rabbinic Emissary,  
Kiev:

**Rabbi Reuven Stamov**

Director,  
Midreshet Schechter,  
Israel:

**Rabbi Dubi Haiyun**

## Midreshet Yerushalayim – Ukraine

Midreshet Yerushalayim, the only Conservative Jewish educational network in the former Soviet Union, sponsors Zionist-Jewish education throughout Ukraine. Over the last 28 years, the program has enabled thousands of Jews to reconnect to their heritage through experiential programs in schools, synagogues and summer camps. All programs stress Jewish tradition, history, peoplehood and the centrality of Israel for the Jewish people.



## New Initiatives 2018-19

### Virtual Classroom Surpasses All Expectations

More than 75 Ukrainian Jewish educators, triple the expected number, participated in a Jewish Studies Training Program which offered three online courses in Jewish history, Bible and Prayer. Taught by top scholars and master educators from Schechter in Israel and other institutions in Ukraine, the program was launched with a generous grant from the L.A. Pincus Fund for Jewish Education. Although required to take only one class, close to half of the participants signed up for two classes, tuning in for “live” sessions or via recorded broadcasts.

### Online Studies Culminate in Learning Marathon

The five-month virtual Jewish Studies Training Program culminated in a five-day Learning Marathon in western Ukraine. Some 40 Jewish educators from across Ukraine, all enrolled in the online study program, had the opportunity to meet fellow students and two of their three online instructors. The program, in addition to classes in Jewish history, Hebrew and archeology in Israel, included a full Shabbat experience with Torah reading as well as chevruta study.

## Changing of the Guard

**Gila Katz**, beloved teacher and long-time director of Midreshet Yerushalayim Ukraine is retiring after devoting close to thirty years to building Jewish education in the former Soviet Union. With the fall of Communism in 1990, Gila connected with Midreshet Yerushalayim to establish a number of groundbreaking projects including a TALJ school in Chernowitz in 1991; Teachers’ Seminar in Ukraine; and the first Ramah Camp in Ukraine in 1992, which to this day provides an unparalleled Jewish camping experience based on the U.S. model. The new pedagogic supervisor is **Rabbi Irina Gritsevskaya**, who was ordained by Schechter in 2018, and who served as one of the rabbis of Tel Aviv’s Kehillat Ramat Aviv Hahadasha. With law degrees from the Hebrew University and Bar Ilan University, Irina studied at JTS in New York before completing her rabbinic studies at the Schechter Rabbinical Seminary.

Opposite page:

Members of Kehillat Masoret light up Kiev’s main square with their Hanukkah Menorahs.

Right: Odessa’s Kehillat Tiferet receives a Sefer Torah.



Above:

Over 40 Jewish educators at the Learning Marathon in western Ukraine.

Gila Katz, Pedagogical Supervisor, retired in 2019.

## Odessa Joyfully Receives Torah

Odessa’s Kehillat Tiferet welcomed their first Torah Scroll into the community in May 2019. A gift from **Aaron and Arleen Priest**, the scroll has prompted a number of community members to enroll in an online Schechter course for prayer leaders and Torah readers. (See “Virtual Classroom” article above).





## Special Moments: Ramah Camps 2019

**Camp Ramah Yachad Ukraine** celebrated its 27th season of Jewish camping in August. 125 children from all over Ukraine immersed themselves in a 24/7 Jewish experience of learning, spirituality and community. The camp's creative programming designed by a talented staff of counselors from Israel and Ukraine paved the way for a meaningful connection to Jewish history and holidays, Israel and Zionism, Jewish Thought and the Conservative Movement.

**Ramah Family Camp**, an extraordinary six-day introduction to the beauty of Judaism, attracted over 80 participants (25 families) from Kiev, Kharkov, Odessa, Chernowitz and Berdichev. The week's highlights included two Jewish weddings for couples who had previously had a civil ceremony and three Bar Mitzvah ceremonies for young campers. Run by Kiev's Kehillat Masoret **R. Reuven Stamov**, and his wife **Lena**, the camp enables families to celebrate community, learn, and grow in their dedication to the Jewish way of life.



## MY Community Outreach – 2018-19

- **Kiev's Midreshet Yerushalayim/Masorti Olami Synagogue and Educational Center** offers a multi-generational educational program for all family members in Hebrew, Jewish tradition, history, literature and Israeli culture. Today, under the able leadership of Schechter graduate **Rabbi Reuven Stamov**, the Center, together with the Masorti congregation, draws over 250 weekly participants to a plethora of courses and holiday workshops for all ages.
- **Kehillat Aviv in Chernowitz**, led by **Lev Kleiman**, has built up an active community of more than 100 members in just a few years. High level intergenerational educational and cultural programs take place during the week, on Shabbat and for Jewish holidays for all ages. Most importantly, the center is nurturing young leaders with a vibrant NOAM youth group and a young leadership training program.
- **Odessa Kehillat Tiferet**, led by **Zeev Waksman**, was established four years ago. Today it boasts over 80 active members, including 15 young families, 25 students, 20 children in the NOAM youth group; with 13 children attending the Ramah-Ukraine summer camp, and a new Torah scroll! (see page 31)
- Another Family Center is located in **Berdichev**.
- **The Kharkov Lyceum Day School**, with 120 students (grades 1-10), continues to receive invaluable instruction in Jewish studies from Midreshet Yerushalayim.

Above:  
Happy times at Camp Ramah-Ukraine.

A thriving Kehillat Masoret in Kiev.

Left:  
Bar Mitzvah at the Ramah Family Camp.



Top two pictures:

A student in the Learning Marathon in Ukraine.

Kehillat Aviv in Chernowitz celebrates Tu B'shvat.



## Midreshet Schechter – Israel

Midreshet Schechter offers continuing adult education programs in Hebrew, Russian, English and French to Israelis and immigrants in Bet Midrash frameworks. Programs include study and cultural events at Masorti congregations and community centers, as well as at the Schechter Institute in Jerusalem. Over 800 people attended the learning with hundreds more coming to one-time events.

Study in the north included: **Haifa's veteran Kehillat Moriah** where its Midreshet HaKarmel offered 11 different courses at the synagogue and a Senior Center Facility; **Karmiel's Kehillat Hakarmel** offered three courses; one course took place in the Lower Galilee town of **Shlomi**; interfaith study of Judaism and Islam at the **Jezreel Valley College**; a course in **Nazareth Illit** for Russian speakers; Jewish Philosophy at **Ramat Yishai's Kehillat Sukkat Shalom** and Studies in Jewish Mysticism in **Yokneam's Kehillat Ohel Moshe**.

In the center of the country, Rabbi Haiyun taught an intergenerational Bet Midrash in **Or Akiva**. A music class on "Jewish Rock" took place in **Givat Yesha'ayahu**, with additional courses in Jerusalem in French and Russian at the **Conservative Yeshiva** and the **Schocken Institute** and in **Ma'ale Adumim**.



## Changing of the Guard

**Rabbi Dubi Haiyun**, who developed and directed the Midreshet Schechter adult education centers for the past five years, left following his appointment as Deputy Mayor of Haifa. **Rabbi Irina Gritsevskaya**, a Schechter graduate as well as a licensed attorney, has assumed the position.



Bottom two pictures:

Lev Kleiman, from Kehillat Aviv (second from left), receives Hebrew-Russian prayerbooks donated by Harvey Miller from David Golinkin, Irina Gritsevskaya and Gila Katz.

Shabbat candle-lighting in Odessa's Kehillat Tiferet.



# Development and Communications

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The Schechter Institutes enjoyed another year of fundraising success, raising \$6,519,548 between September 1, 2018 and August 31, 2019. The continued fundraising success drives continued growth of the four Schechter non-profits, providing 85,000 people in Israel and overseas with meaningful Jewish experiences.

As always, in 2018-2019, our diverse donor community included private individuals in Israel and North America, family foundations, Jewish Federations, the Jewish Agency for Israel, and the Israeli government. We are grateful to all our friends and partners and thank them for their sustained generosity.

We are delighted to announce that the Peace Building Initiative of EuropeAid, a grant-giving body of the European Union, has awarded €720,000 to the TALI Education Fund for TALI's Dialogue and Identity program. The gift, the first EU grant to the TALI Education Fund, will support program expansion through 2023.

In 2019, the Israeli government, through the Ministry of Education and Ministry of Culture, has committed a total of \$637,000 to fund the work of the TALI Education Fund, Midreshet Schechter and the Schechter Rabbinical Seminary.

## New Operating Gifts, Grants and Allocations (\$20,000 and up):

- **Two Anonymous Gifts** to support Midreshet Yerushalayim programs in Ukraine
- **The Avi Chai Foundation** for TALI's pilot program with joint secular-religious schools
- **The Azrieli Foundation** for the Halleli TALI professional leadership program
- **The Beverly Foundation** for TALI's 10th grade Jewish Israeli identity program
- **The Crown Family** to subsidize reprinting of a TALI textbook
- **Educating for Impact** purchased the rights to TALI textbooks
- **The European Union** for academic partnership between the Protestant Theological University (the Netherlands) and SIJS
- **The European Union** for TALI's Dialogue and Identity program
- **Michael Gould** to publish Prof. Louis Ginzberg's commentary on Talmud Yerushalmi, tractate Pesachim
- **The Diane P. and Guilford Glazer Fund** for TALI's 10th grade Jewish Israeli identity program
- **Martin and Pearl Herskovitz** to SRS and the Graduate School for programs that promote memory of the Shoah
- **The Jewish Federation of Greater MetroWest New Jersey** to the Graduate School to develop programs in Ofakim and to SRS for the Ashira Music program
- **Lou and Judy Miller** for TALI's 10th grade Jewish Israeli identity program
- **UJA Federation of New York** for the Halleli TALI professional leadership program
- **Golda and Ned Steinman** for TALI support
- **Helmut Wellisch** to subsidize reprinting of a TALI textbook
- **Peter Wexler** for SRS rabbinical scholarships



Above, from the top:  
Harvey Miller and David Golinkin visit the Harvey L. Miller Family Bet Midrash.

Daniel and Shai Birnbaum enjoy the Shirat Halev Music Festival in Ashkelon.

Carol Kekst and David Golinkin at the Donor's Wall.

Opposite page:  
Chicago NCSY Harvey Miller Mission to Israel visits Schechter.

Left:  
Members of the William Davidson Foundation Board and staff meet Schechter Management, from left: Doron Bar, Manny Menchel, Darin McKeever, Anya Segal, David Golinkin, Deena Pulitzer, Eitan Chikli and Jon Aaron.





## Schechter Leadership News

### Board News

Daniel Birnbaum stepped down from the SIJS Board and Executive Committee. We thank Dani for his service to the Schechter Institute and welcome **Eliezer Ya'ari**, an Israeli TV personality, former fighter pilot and past CEO of the New Israel Fund, to the SIJS Board and Executive Committee.

### Board Meetings

- The Schechter Institutes, Inc., under the leadership of Chair **Saul Sanders**, met in New York in November 2018 and June 2019.
- The Schechter Institute of Jewish Studies Board of Trustees, led by Chair **Saul Sanders** and by Executive Committee Chair **Jonathan Steinberg**, convened in December, 2018 and in April and August, 2019.
- The Schechter Rabbinical Seminary, under the leadership of Board Chair **Ilana Laderman Mushkin**, conducted board meetings in Jerusalem in December 2018 and in April and August 2019.
- The TALI Education Fund Board, chaired by **Roni Yannay**, met in January and September 2019.
- The Midreshet Schechter Board, chaired by **Prof. David Golinkin**, met in January and July 2019.

Clockwise from top:

Rabbis Avi Novis-Deutsch and Baruch Frydman-Kohl.

David and Rebecca Kekst visit the Kekst Foyer.

Edward and Barbara Zinbarg, with from left: Eitan Cooper, Rabbis Mijael Even David and David Golinkin.

JTS mission to Israel, from left; including Marty and Bracha Werber, Bonnie Epstein, Barry Lovell, with Rabbis Matt Berkowitz and Avi Novis-Deutsch (back row).

### The Family in Jewish Tradition: 4-part Webinar Series

Sunday mornings at Rabbi Michael Gottlieb's Kehillat Ma'arav, Santa Monica, CA, were enriched by four online lectures on *Parents and Children in the Jewish Tradition*. The live web-casts, streamed direct from Schechter, featured learning with **Prof. David Golinkin**, **Dr. Tamar Kadari**, **Dr. Einat Ramon** and **Dr. Paul Shrell-Fox**.

Live web-casts in preparation for the high holidays, taught by **Rabbis Novis-Deutsch** and **Feigelson**, were attended by adult education study groups at Chicago congregations, Anshei Emet and North Suburban-Beth-El.

### Following the President

**Prof. David Golinkin** served as a scholar-in-residence at numerous Conservative congregations and spoke at various conferences in Israel and abroad in 2018-19.

**In North America:** Congregation Agudath Israel, West Caldwell, NJ, **Rabbi Alan Silverstein**, June 2019 | Beth Torah, North Miami Beach, FL, **Rabbi Mario Rojzman**, February 2019 | Dix Hills Jewish Center, Long Island, NY,





Clockwise from top:

Helmut Wellisch with David Golinkin and Simcha Goldsmith.

From left: Adam Berman, Rabbi Harold and Beth Berman, Rabbis Avi Novis-Deutsch and David Golinkin.

Alan Edelman, Yael Misk and Eyal Beer (center) from the Kansas City Federation with Anya Segal and Eitan Cooper.

**Rabbi Howard R. Buechler**, February 2019 | Online learning with Kehillat Ma'arav, Santa Monica, CA, **Rabbi Michael Gotlieb**, November 2018 | North Suburban Synagogue Beth El, Highland Park, IL, **Rabbis Vernon Kurtz and Michael Schwab**, November 2018

**In Israel:** Chicago NCSY Harvey Miller Mission, Schechter, July 2019 | NOAM Olami Leaders, "The Conservative Approach to Jewish Law," Schechter, July 2019 | "On Religious Pluralism in Israel," Baltimore Federation Mission, Jerusalem, May 2019 | "The Middle Way in Judaism," JTS/Schechter Conference on Israel-Diaspora Relations, March 2019 | "The Seven Educational Challenges of the 21st Century," Kehillat Hakerem, Karmiel, March 2019 | "Responsa from the Holocaust" for faculty of Yehud High School, March 2019 | Online learning of midrashim on Megillat Esther with rabbis around the world, March 2019 | "The Conservative Approach to Jewish Law," NOAM and Hanaton pre-army program, Schechter, March 2019 | "The Jewish Attitude Toward the Environment," Kehillat Amitai, Ra'anana, January 2019 | "Is it Permissible to Study Biblical Criticism?" Masorti Movement Conference, Schechter, January 2019 | "Unity vs. Diversity," JCC, Talpote, Jerusalem, October 2018

## Schechter Faculty at International Forums

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

- **Dr. Jonathan Benarroch:** presented four lectures on Kabbalah in the Medieval Period: the 50th AJS Conference, Boston, and Rhetoric Dept., UC Berkeley, December 2018; Yale University and Princeton University, October 2018
- **Dr. Dror Bondi:** Research Fellow, Duke University, Durham, North Carolina, February 2019
- **Dr. Tamar Kadari:** "Fatherhood in Rabbinic Parables in Song of Songs Rabbah," The Power of Parables, Utrecht, Netherlands, June 2019
- **Dr. Etki Liebowitz:** "Gender, Politics and Religion in Antiquity: The Challenge of the Reign of Queen Alexandra," Kiel University, Kiel, Germany, November 2018
- **Dr. Paul Mandel:** "Metamorphosis of the Jewish sofer as scribe from First Temple period to Late Antiquity," The Scribe in the Biblical World,





University of Strasbourg, June 2019 | “The Re-Citation of Tales of Destruction for Edification and Catharsis in Midrash Lamentations Rabbah,” Oxford University, November 2018

- **Prof. Renée Levine Melammed:** “The Letters sent by Women in the Cairo Genizah Project,” Society of Judeo-Arabic Studies in the Middle Ages, Antwerp University, July 2019
- **Dr. Biti Roi:** “Nehemya Hiyya Hayon and the Challenges of the Post-1676 Sabbatian Leadership,” Sarajevo University, Bosnia, October 2019
- **Dr. Milka Levy-Rubin:** “Ruling a Christian Majority: the Case of Palestine in the Early Muslim Period,” Institute for the Study of Muslim Civilizations, London, June 2019 | “The Conquest Agreement between Reality and Myth: the Case of the Jerusalem Agreement,” Leiden, The Netherlands, September 2019
- **Dr. Naomi Cohn Zentner:** Research Fellow, The Center for Hebrew and Jewish Studies, Oxford University, October-December 2019 | “The Status of Contemporary Prayer in Israel,” University of Chicago, March 2019 | “The History of the Sephardic Tone in Ashkenazi Synagogues,” Simon Dubnow Institute, Leipzig, Germany, February 2019
- **Dr. Bat-Sheva Margalit Stern:** “Eretz Israeli and Romanian Women Collaborate: A Case Study of Women’s Networks,” Sefer Conference of Jewish Studies, Moscow, July 2019

## Schechter Online

### Responsa in a Moment: Online Winner

*Responsa in a Moment*, a bi-monthly column by Prof. David Golinkin on a broad range of subjects relating to contemporary Jewish law and life, is creating great online interest. Over a 1,000 visitors have reached his articles in a single day, with close to half a million visits to the site.

In addition to the Responsa column, the Schechter Institutes made significant inroads online in the past year, increasing the online audience of the Schechter website from about 50,000 to over 136,000 users. The reach of our YouTube channel included over 63,000 people, with growth of 43% in users’ watch time. Weekly ShavuaTov@Schechter videos are proving to be incredibly popular! In addition, more and more people peruse Schechter content on mobile devices, demonstrating Schechter success in mastering new, succinct, digital formats appropriate for busy users who are looking for information on the go.







Top Row, from left to right:  
Congregation Beth David Mission, led by Michael Rubin, visits Schechter.

From left: Rabbi Ellen Wolintz Fields, Exec. Dir. Women's League, meets with rabbinical students Dani Veininger and Yos Baruch, Rabbis David Golinkin and Avi Novis-Deutsch and Ilana Laderman Mushkin.

Rabbis Jonathan Infeld and Martin Cohen at Schechter.

## In the Media

The Schechter Institutes leadership received significant media coverage this past year, with over 100 articles, op-eds and interviews, including the following:

- *Israel Hayom*, the leading Israeli daily, featured a bi-weekly column on the Weekly Torah Portion with contributions by Schechter faculty, including Doron Bar, David Golinkin, Avi Novis-Deutsch, Tamar Kadari, Gila Vachman, Yair Paz, Einat Ramon, Paul Shrell-Fox, Daniel Topaz, David Frankel and Eitan Cooper
- Significant coverage of the Herzl lecture series and interviews with Doron Bar in *Makor Rishon*, *Arutz Haknesset* and *Arutz 7*
- New M.A. program "Ma'aseh Hoshev" received coverage on *Kol Yisrael* radio and three local Jerusalem newspapers
- Schechter-Protestant University of the Netherlands partnership featured in *The Jerusalem Post* and *Yediot Ahronot*

- Articles on Marpeh Chaplaincy Program appeared in *The Jerusalem Post* and *Makor Rishon*
- Books by Moshe Benovitz and Bat-Sheva Margalit Stern reviewed in *Makor Rishon* and *Ha'aretz*
- Rabbi Dr. Mimi Feigelson profile in *The Jerusalem Report*
- Feature story on Neve Schechter's Torah Lishma program in *LA Jewish Journal*
- Significant coverage of SRS grads Rabbi Yerach and Nava B. Meiersdorf in *NY Jewish Week*, *i24 news* and *YNet*
- Halleli TALI Leadership program garners media attention in *The Jerusalem Post*, *i24NEWS* and *YNet*
- TALI 10th grade Jewish-Israeli identity program received coverage in numerous local newspapers
- Major feature on TALI's Dialogue and Identity program for Jewish and Arab children published on *YNet*
- Rabbi Prof. David Golinkin published 6 op-ed articles in *The Jerusalem Post*



Bottom row, from left to right:  
Debbie Bruce, Women's League Israel Chair (second from right) meets with David Golinkin, Diane Friedgut and Anya Segal.

Marom Olami young leaders study with David Golinkin.

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TALI schoolchildren at the Shirat Halev Music Festival in Ashkelon.

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Rabbi Jonathan Infeld  
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Standy Starkman and Larry Pachter  
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## Friends in Deed \$180 and above

Anonymous (USA)  
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Arnie and Carol Bender  
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Sarrah Crane

Michael and Lenore Weinstein

Roni Yannay

Eli Zahav

# The Schechter Institutes Operating Budget (in \$US)

January 1, 2019-December 31, 2019

## Income

## Expenses

### 1. Schechter Institute of Jewish Studies Graduate School

Federations and Foundations	1,181,016	Faculty Salaries	1,502,778
Contributions	1,138,716	M.A. Student Tuition Scholarships	228,984
Tuition and Fees	965,004	Library, Academic Research, Publishing	351,372
Endowment Income	259,158	Other Educational/Academic Projects	158,766
Book sales, rental income, misc.	198,810	Student Recruitment/Marketing	216,294
		Administration and Campus Maintenance*	670,032
		Development and PR*	614,478
<b>Sub-Total</b>	<b>3,742,704</b>		<b>3,742,704</b>

\* Includes PR, Fundraising, US and Campus expenses for 4 Schechter non-profits

### 2. TALI Education Fund

The Jewish Agency	399,312	Textbook/Curriculum Development	362,088
Foundations and Federations	933,984	Pedagogic Counseling	500,268
Contributions	1,113,054	Informal Activities and School Resources	369,702
Israeli Government	487,014	Halleli and Professional Development	687,234
Fees for Sales, Services	398,184	Early Childhood Department	334,734
Interest and miscellaneous	27,072	High School Projects	362,652
		Special Projects and New Media	137,052
		Network Expansion, Supervision and Evaluation	155,664
		Administration	449,226
<b>Sub-Total</b>	<b>3,358,620</b>		<b>3,358,620</b>

**Income****Expenses****3. Schechter Rabbinical Seminary**

The Jewish Agency, KKL, Israeli Govt.	96,162	Faculty Salaries	371,676
Contributions	204,732	Student Stipends and Internships	201,630
Earmarked Gifts and Grants	465,582	Ashira Music Program	89,958
Tuition and Fees	151,998	New Media Projects	73,602
Interest and miscellaneous	17,484	Torah Lishmah	67,962
		Administration	131,130
<b>Sub-Total</b>	<b>935,958</b>		<b>935,958</b>

**4. Midreshet Schechter – Israel**

The Jewish Agency	27,072	Schechter Centers	134,232
Foundations and Federations	291,870	Neve Schechter Programming	334,170
Israeli Government/Municipalities	133,950	Neve Schechter Operating Expenses	178,224
Contributions	91,368	Administration	67,398
Participation and Rental Fees	169,764		
<b>Sub-Total</b>	<b>714,024</b>		<b>714,024</b>

**5. Midreshet Yerushalayim – Ukraine**

Federations and The Jewish Agency	73,000	Educator Training – Courses, Seminars	81,143
Foundations	114,328	Ramah and NOAM – Camps and Youth Activities	158,500
Contributions	244,500	Rabbi/Shaliach Salary and Housing	97,264
Masorti Olami	119,000	Kyiv Center Rent and Expenses	66,400
		Direct Support for Other Communities	58,700
		Administration	88,821
<b>Sub-Total</b>	<b>550,828</b>		<b>550,828</b>

**TOTAL****9,302,134****9,302,134**



The Schechter Institutes, Inc.  
שוחרי עמותות שכטר

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