

“Learning in Order to Do”

– Ethics of the Fathers 4:5

The Schechter Institutes
Annual Report 2021-2022



The Schechter Institutes, Inc.
שוחרי עמותות שכטר

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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 leading M.A. program in Jewish Studies in Israel with 360 students and 1918 graduates and an extensive adult education program in Israel and overseas.

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 Schechter Ukraine provides Jewish education to Jewish communities in Ukraine and emergency relief to the Jews of Ukraine.

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

Neve Schechter-Legacy Heritage Center for Jewish Culture in Neve Zedek draws 20,000 Tel Avivians every year to concerts, classes, cultural events and art exhibits.

Written and edited by Linda Price

Photos: Din Aharoni Rolland, Donna Bar Simontov, Ilana Foss, Gil Getz, Etai Nadav, Dor Sabg, Nir Shaanani | Graphic design: Yula Verman



**One who learns in order to do,
is granted the means to learn and to teach,
to observe and to do.**

– Ethics of the Fathers 4:5

Learning in Order to Do. This maxim has guided the Schechter Institutes since it was founded in Jerusalem close to 40 years ago. Over those four decades, tens of thousands of students – MA, Rabbinical, TALi teachers and pupils, adult learners – have come to understand that Judaism is something to be cherished, not feared, that they are invited to grapple with our centuries-old texts, not shrink from them.

- President Ari Ackerman witnesses each year a profound shift in his students' world view as they engage with their Jewish/Israeli identity, many for the first time.
- Elena Arons leads text-driven courses in Tel Aviv's Neve Schechter that guide her students to unmediated "Super Vision".
- Lev Kleyman has provided food and safe haven for thousands of Ukrainian refugees in his Chernivtsi branch of Midreshet Schechter.
- Thousands of TALi pupils have learned to respect "the other" through the *Dialogue and Identity* Jewish-Arab Co-existence program.
- Yuval Katz-Wilfing travels from his hometown Vienna to Milan to stage improvisational theatre based on Talmudic texts.

To Learn. To Teach. To Do. This belief is what guides Schechter's gifted staff and faculty every day of the year. This belief is why students chose to study at Schechter and why our thousands of graduates leave as agents of social change. Armed with Jewish knowledge, they commit "to doing" – in their homes, their schools, their workplace and their communities.

Letter from the Chairman



Dear Friends,

This last year has been exciting. As we and most of the rest of the world adjusted to the new normal, the various branches of the Schechter Institutes continued to use the lessons learned during the pandemic to bring pluralistic Judaism to tens of thousands of Israelis, Ukrainians, Europeans and South Americans.

Our ongoing activities in the Ukraine were obviously impacted by the war. In Chernivtsi, Ukraine, where a thriving Midreshet Schechter Family Center and Kehillah operates, thousands found safe haven from the hostilities, where accommodation, hot meals, religious services and economic aid continue to be provided. There were Megillah readings of the Book of Esther and at this year's Seder table, more than 150 participants – refugees and Kehillah members alike – celebrated Passover in a most festive manner. This past summer, the popular Camp Ramah Ukraine was held for a full ten days, but this time in Romania, to ensure the safety of our children and staff. What a welcome respite for those 100 children, many of whom were leaving their war-torn cities for the first time since war broke out in February! Our staff both inside and outside of the country worked tirelessly to make this year's camp experience especially meaningful for our war-weary children and counselors.

Just a few months prior to the outbreak of war, we opened our new expansive campus in Kyiv which today serves as both a religious and survival center for congregants and refugee arrivals. We have helped dozens of families from our communities to find refuge in Europe or make aliyah to Israel.

Although the bulk of our classes and events returned to an in-person format, we continue to run many online classes both for matriculated students and for adult education. We expanded our online programming to make it more accessible in European and American time zones and we offer classes in multiple languages. The "Age of Zoom" has also enabled the Schechter Rabbinical Seminary to attract rabbinical students from Europe. This talented group of Jewish educators are taking courses long distance while contributing to their local Kehillot.

In May, I was privileged to attend a year-end festive concert of the TALI "Dialogue and Identity" program, partially funded by the EU, which fosters cooperation between Jewish and Arab students through multiple meetings and coursework. What a delight to witness 1200 youngsters singing in unison songs of peace and communicating with each other so beautifully.

A new and exciting program introduced last year is the TALI Bar/Bat Mitzvah program. This past year, close to 800 Israeli children participated in this meaningful coming of age curriculum, while in our Tel Aviv Neve Schechter campus, 70 pluralistic Bar and Bat Mitzvah ceremonies were held. TALI once again hosted many principals in their leadership development training courses, including a trip to New York to see successful North American models for Jewish education.

This year marks a transition for the Schechter Institute of Jewish Studies. After seven years, Professor Doron Bar will step down as President. I want to thank him for his hard work and many accomplishments including the exhausting task of pivoting Schechter from in-person to online learning (and back to in-person) during Covid. It has been a pleasure working with him. We also wish new Graduate School President, Professor Ari Ackerman, much success at the helm of the school and look forward to many productive years under his leadership.

With wishes for a healthy, prosperous and fulfilling New Year,

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



In September 2021, I had the honor of visiting the grave of Prof. Solomon Schechter z"l at Mount Hebron Cemetery in New York (see picture, page 26). This led me to reflect on the name of our institution.

In 1984, we were founded under the name The Seminary of Judaic Studies or the Bet Midrash. In 1998, when Rabbi Benjamin Segal was President of Schechter, we renamed our institution The Schechter Institute. I would like to explain why.

As I have written elsewhere (*Responsa in a Moment*, III, pp. 16-26) Solomon Schechter – in the footsteps of the Tosefta, Maimonides, and Rabbi Zekhariah Frankel – was a leading proponent of The Middle Way in Judaism. That is exactly what we at Schechter have been doing for 38 years. We have taught and, in many respects, *created* The Middle Way in Israel today, between the Haredim and the staunch secularists.

Schechter was a proponent of first-rate scholarship. So are we. Almost all of our full-time faculty spoke at the 18th World Congress of Jewish Studies in Jerusalem in August 2022. Schechter and/or its faculty publish at least eight books every year and we hold at least ten conferences, not to mention a huge number of Zoom lectures annually.

Schechter believed that rabbis who have studied *all* the fields of Jewish Studies must lead modern Jews in The Middle Way. That is why the Schechter Rabbinical Seminary has ordained over 100 rabbis who are leading communities and educational institutions throughout Israel, Europe and even Australia.

Schechter founded the Teachers Institute at JTS in 1909 in order to train educators for modern Jews. The Schechter Institute Graduate School has over 1900 M.A. graduates, most of them educators and communal workers, who are now spreading Jewish knowledge from Kiryat Shmona to Eilat. In addition, TALI does in/service training for thousands of teachers every year, who in turn teach 65,000 Israeli children.

Schechter believed (cf. Avot 4:13), that “the crown of the Torah is free to all... he who wants to take it, let him come and take it!” (*Studies in Judaism*, II, p. 64). Neve Schechter fulfills this mission by running art, music and holiday programs for 20,000 adults every year, while the Schechter non-profits provide adult education courses to over 2,000 adults every year.

Finally, Schechter believed in *Klal Yisrael*, the collective Jewish people. Midreshet Schechter Ukraine has proved our devotion to *Klal Yisrael* since the war began in February 2022, by providing food, stipends, shelter, transportation and Torah study to thousands of Ukrainian Jews.

We are proud to bear the name The Schechter Institutes as we continue – with your generous support – to provide pluralistic Jewish education to over 100,000 children and adults every year.

I would like to conclude by thanking Mr. Harvey L. Miller and The Harvey L. Miller Family Foundation for donating a generous naming gift in order to renovate our Library and Administration Building, which will enable the Schechter Institutes to continue to serve the Jewish people for generations to come.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "David Golinkin".

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



New President, New Platforms and Partnerships

Professor Ari Ackerman, incoming President of the Schechter Graduate School and outgoing incumbent of the Golinkin Chair in TALI Jewish Education, is Associate Professor in Jewish Philosophy and Jewish Education and former Dean of the Graduate School

Meeting Prof. Ari Ackerman, one is immediately taken in by his youthful charm and energy, belying the fact that at Schechter, he has had a most impressive academic career spanning over 20 years, a testament to his talents as teacher, administrator and scholar.

But don't let his disarming smile fool you. Ari Ackerman is ready to institute change in an institution that he feels can only get stronger. Discussing the role of the Graduate School he maintains that "Schechter has done a great job in developing a transformative program where students actually make a profound shift in their world view, strengthening their Jewish/Israeli identity. I've seen this change take place in my classes."

Ackerman wants to build on this success, expanding Schechter's student base by introducing new programs, academic and non-academic alike. He'd like to see Schechter offering certification programs and professional development courses in Jewish education and Jewish communal work. "There are exciting new fields like Bibliotherapy and Art Therapy that could only be enhanced by the Jewish studies component and this is where Schechter provides the 'value added'," explains Ackerman.

Schechter's new president will push for greater cooperation between five of the organizations that make up The Schechter Institutes, Inc.: the Graduate School, the Rabbinical Seminary, the TALI Education Fund, Neve Schechter in Tel Aviv and Midreshet Schechter Adult Education. "I want to create an 'ethos of partnership'" where the 'whole' is more than its 'parts,'" he explains. Ackerman's aim is to create a cohesive adult education program that serves all five educational bodies. "We're all involved in Jewish culture – art, music, liturgy, literature. Working together, our impact on Israel will be that much greater."

"My dream is to establish a School of Jewish Education, possibly through strategic partnerships. We're not just an academic institution. We have educational goals as well. Schechter has always looked at Jewish studies in a creative way, pushing the 'MA envelope' in new directions." Ackerman is committed to moving Schechter forward in this same spirit of educational innovation and academic excellence.

(see Bio, page 12)

“We're not just an academic institution. We have educational goals as well. Schechter has always looked at Jewish studies in a creative way, pushing the 'MA envelope' in new directions.”
– Prof. Ari Ackerman



Schechter Rabbinical Seminary Makes Inroads into Europe

Meet Yuval and Marine. Young Europeans with a love of Judaism and a deep commitment to return that love to the community. Covid has taught us just how essential (and easy!) long distance learning can be. Zoom technology has opened up fabulous study opportunities for the would-be rabbi and a pool of incredible talent for the rosters at Schechter.

“Schechter is giving me the means to educate, practice and pass this knowledge on to the community.”

– *Yuval Katz-Wilfing*

Yuval Katz-Wilfing, 46, a computer scientist who has worked on networks for spacecraft, self-driving vehicles and wind energy projects, today helps lead a Viennese kehillah while finishing up his rabbinical studies at Schechter

A quick glance at Yuval Katz’s appointment calendar reveals much about the man: a visit to the Austrian Parliament for an inter-religious Prayer for Peace; participation in a conference to explore Jewish educational cooperation between Germany and Hungary; travel to Milan to stage improvisational theatre based on Talmudic texts. And frequently he is busy at *Chavura Vienna*, where he teaches Talmud and Mishnah, leads services and organizes activities for children and adults.

“Schechter is giving me the means to educate, practice and pass this knowledge on to the community.” And so is Yuval’s wife, Carina, a medical doctor, who will be moving to Israel with Yuval and their three children to allow him to complete his rabbinical studies. “I feel like Rabbi Akiva whose loving partner has enabled him to fulfill his dream.”

Marine de Moliner, 33, Jewish community activist in Paris and full-time Schechter rabbinical student, now studying in-person with colleagues in Jerusalem

From age 12, Marine de Moliner felt connected to the Jewish people. “Reading about Judaism, it was obvious who I was meant to be.” From Kehillat Gesher, a Paris synagogue where her conversion took place to meeting Schechter-ordained Florianne Chinsky, rabbi at a Liberal Jewish Movement synagogue, Marine has embarked on a spiritual and intellectual journey that has taken her to the heart of Judaism.

Passionate about her goal, Marine has completed two Schechter semesters of rabbinical studies via Zoom with additional credits from a JTS seminar in New York. She is currently studying with her classmates in Jerusalem. “Schechter has been a godsend to me. I am so grateful to be able to learn with such gifted rabbis and teachers.”

Her dream? “Not to establish a traditional synagogue, but rather, something that does not yet exist: a Jewish space, where Judaism lives, geared to young professionals.” With Marine’s energies, intellect and charisma, Paris look out!

“Schechter has been a godsend to me. I am so grateful to be able to learn with such gifted rabbis and teachers.”

– *Marine de Moliner*





صباح الخير Morning Song סבאח אל שיר

On a bright morning in May 2022, the voices of 1200 Arab and Jewish children rose together in joyous song: a song of love and laughter; a song in Hebrew, Arabic and English that reached the heavens with its prayer for peace. Not your common happening in this war-fraught region of the world – unless you are a student, teacher or principal involved in *Dialogue and Identity*, a TALI Education Fund program nurturing Arab-Jewish co-existence in Israel, supported by the Anne Heyman z"l and Seth Merrin Family Foundation. The event, co-funded by the European Union and attended by its Ambassador to Israel, Dimiter Tzantchev, celebrated the 15th year of a project that has been uniquely successful in enveloping the children of paired Jewish and Arab Christian/Muslim schools in the rich cultures and religions that share the Land of Israel.

Above: Arab and Jewish children meet up on the grounds of Kibbutz Yagur before the start of the *Dialogue and Identity* "Morning Song" music festival.

Opposite page: (top) Principals Sofi Rachum, TALI Tidhar School, and Haifa Najjar, Sisters of Nazareth School, at the songfest, (bottom) with pupils Elias Bkheit and Eitan Brisman.



A “Life-Changer” for School Culture

Two of the 38 elementary schools participating in “Morning Song” were Yokneam’s TALI Tidhar and Haifa’s Sisters of Nazareth. Their principals, Haifa Najjar and Sofi Rachum, extol the immense benefits *Dialogue and Identity* brings to their schools.

“The program has been a life-changer. My students come from all kinds of homes and world views. *Dialogue and Identity* has shown them that an Arab is a person just like them. Not an enemy. We are all human, each with our own unique story and history,” says Sofi Rachum.

Born in Morocco, Sofi arrived in Israel, just a year old, in 1965. She herself had to overcome family stories of prejudice and mistrust. “We came from an Arab nation and I remember always being frightened. I grew up with stereotypes. I had to spend a lifetime of learning to get to where I am today. My students in *Dialogue and Identity* won’t have to make that journey.”

During the year, 38 paired TALI and Arab schools (up from 24 last year) met four times, alternating visits between schools. Haifa Najjar, from Sisters of Nazareth, Haifa, has worked closely with TALI Tidhar for seven years.

“Both peoples have always had the same vision – living in peace. *Dialogue and Identity* is allowing us to convert theory into practice,” explains Haifa. “Once I meet the ‘other’, I can better understand him.”

The program, in partnership with the Rossing Center for Education and Dialogue, accepts only one class per school a year. Teachers in all schools vie for the honor of participating. TALI principal Sofi Rachum feels the program’s goals are being met. “We are planting and sowing seeds. Over the last decade, every one of my classes left the program with a changed understanding of Arabs, their religion and culture. This understanding will make a difference in the years ahead as these students grow and mature.”

Haifa Najjar grew up in Fassuta, a small Melkite Christian village near the Lebanese border. Most of her family still lives there today. Under her direction, Sisters of Nazareth continues to rank as one of Israel’s top schools. “Last year, six of our graduates were accepted to the Technion Medical School,” she proudly relates.

“We follow the same football teams!”

Dialogue and Identity is an integral part of the Sisters of Nazareth school culture. “The curriculum is really fantastic and so is the staff!” shares principal Haifa Najjar. How does she know the program is succeeding? “When we met for “Morning Song” my kids ran to the grass to be with their Yokneam friends. I swear, I could not tell the two groups apart.”

Elias Bkheit and Eitan Brisman, students who attended “Morning Song” would agree. Both felt the event was very moving. For Elias, whose English is excellent “because of the American TV shows I watch,” the event was “awesome.” He is saddened by hate words that hurt. The program has helped him see that Jewish people are just that – people. “It should not be about religion. We are all basically the same.” Eitan Brisman agrees. He made a good friend from Sisters of Nazareth – Adi. “Adi and I play the same computer games, like the same music and follow the same football teams. I have his phone number and I’ve already called him once.”

This year, the two classes formed a WhatsApp group and they continue to text each other. In 2022, there can be no better proof of co-existence.



Dialogue and Identity enables children to study a curriculum of “Three Religions in the Holy Land” in their home schools, then present their own traditions in a series of meetings between the paired TALI and Christian/Muslim schools.



The Man of the Hour – Ukraine Under Fire

Lev Kleyman, community activist and the pillar of Midreshet Schechter's Kehillat Aviv in Chernivtsi, a city on Ukraine's western border that overnight became a city of refuge for thousands fleeing the ravages of war

“People from Kyiv, Kharkiv and Odessa were stranded and had no idea where they were. I would bring them back to Chernivtsi.”
– Lev Kleyman

The world is made up not of big heroes. No, it's the small ones, your average friend or neighbor, who in crisis, rises to the occasion, filling big boots. Lev Kleyman is that hero.

Lev, his wife, Miriam and their 7-year-old daughter, Avital, have been steadily building a viable Conservative Movement presence in Chernivtsi, also known as Chernowitz. Lev, a poster boy for Midreshet Schechter Ukraine, is a graduate of the city's TALI school and of Camp Ramah Ukraine, first as a camper and then a veteran counselor. He owns two bike shops, now shuttered, due to his full-time work for the Kehillah.

Almost overnight, Russia's invasion thrust Lev's community into a place of Jewish refuge for thousands trying to reach the Romanian border, only 30 km from Chernivtsi. "My phone did not stop ringing," Lev recounts. He experienced numerous stories of shady taxi drivers promising passengers the border, when in fact, they were dumped far from it.

"People from Kyiv, Kharkiv and Odessa were stranded and had no idea where they were. I would bring them back to Chernivtsi," says Lev. Midreshet Schechter's Executive Director,

Above: Lev Kleyman with members of his Chernivtsi Aviv congregation.

Below, from left: Lev Kleyman poses in front of his Kehilla's new Ark; Architect Alexander Bayever prepares designs for the Ark; Michael Fedorin painting frescoes for the synagogue.



Rabbi Irina Gritsevskaya immediately sprang into action, helping Lev rent many hotel rooms and 11 apartments for the homeless. A free hot lunch, made by Aviv volunteers was instituted. A psychologist from the Kehillah helped with trauma. Lev and his "team" offer Hebrew lessons, Torah study, children's activities and more for the temporary and veteran members, as well as weekly Kabbalat shabbat services. "This Pesach, in the midst of war, we had close to 150 participants at our communal Seder."

Some refugees stayed for a few hours. Others for days and weeks, and some, just long enough to make a difference. Alexander Bayever, an architect fleeing Kharkiv, was dropped more than 100 km from the border. Lev drove two hours both ways to rescue him and his family. The architect asked how he could repay this kindness. Lev immediately thought of the Ark his community has wanted for years, but were unable to fund. "In two days, we had the architect's rendering and shortly thereafter, a new Ark!" beams Lev. The border opened up and the family moved West. Artist Michael Fedorin, from Kyiv, picked up his paintbrushes and created beautiful frescoes that adorn the synagogue's walls today. He is now in back in Kyiv. Lev truly hopes that Ukraine will win the war, but in the meantime, Kehillat Aviv has become an oasis in a war zone and one of the most active synagogues in Ukraine.



The Zoom interview with Lev Kleyman for the Annual Report was scheduled for 11 am, June 23. At 10:48 Lev sends a WhatsApp saying that an air raid siren just went off in Chernivtsi. That would have been OK. He was used to the sirens. The complication was no electricity. I told him to save his cellphone battery for essential matters and we'd speak next week. The reality of Ukraine, summer 2022. (editor)



SRS Rabbinical Student Flees Kharkiv for Chernivtsi

During the first days of the Russian invasion of Ukraine, Yuri (Amir) Radchenko, 36, founder of a new kehillah in Kharkiv, would sequester his community's two Torah scrolls down in the basement of the Sha'alavim Day School in Kharkiv for safekeeping. With Russian missiles falling only a few meters from his apartment, Yuri, a Schechter rabbinical student, fled to Chernivtsi and Kehillat Aviv in early March. "Crisis thrusts you into survival mode. I was shocked at how rational my decisions were, knowing that I may never return home. I took the warmest coat I had; good sturdy shoes; a few tins of Kosher meat and for some inexplicable reason, I grabbed a bag of kippot at the last moment." Since then, Yuri, a Holocaust Studies academic, has integrated beautifully into the Chernivtsi Kehillah, leading services and teaching a conversion course. The Torah scrolls also reached Chernivtsi, awaiting the day that they will be able to return to Kharkiv.

Left: Lev Kleyman sends off Alexander Bayever, his wife and daughter, headed for Germany, and a young orphan bound for Israel.

Above: Yuri Radchenko, leader of the Kharkiv Masorti Congregation and SRS student, finds refuge in Chernivtsi.



Jewish Texts Empowering Society

Elena Arons is a popular group facilitator for Neve Schechter's *Kehillah Lomedet* (Learning Community) and a high school teacher of Jewish Thought and Social Engagement

Elena Arons believes that Jewish texts are the perfect conduit for social activism.

A natural born educator with a sixth sense for bringing out the best in her students, Elena, 37, is a leading voice in Neve Schechter's newest initiative: *Kehillah Lomedet*, a vibrant Learning Community established in July 2021. "I believe that Neve Schechter's Bet Midrash studies are unique for Chavruta and group learning. They not only connect us to our beautifully relevant Jewish sources, but go a step further by compelling us to engage with the community at large."

"I am a social activist who believes that Judaism has a central role to play in changing society," explains Elena. Most recently, she taught in a south Tel Aviv high school known for its weak socio-economic population. Elena has also written a full high school curriculum on social justice based on Jewish texts. Her credentials are impressive. A graduate of Tel Aviv University's Ofakim program for training Jewish Educators, she went on to earn an MA in Bibliotherapy from Haifa University.

"For me, group work is essential. A 'social' encounter can resolve personal issues and heal pain that alone, we are unable to overcome," says Elena. At Neve Schechter, she led three courses this past year - *Tikkun Olam* (Repairing the World), *Panim El Panim* (Face to Face) and *Guf Rishon, Sheni and Shlishi* (1st, 2nd and 3rd Person). Elena passionately believes that these text-driven courses can lead to an unmediated "Super Vision," "allowing for a greater awareness of self and those around us." She also led highly successful holiday workshops for Hanukkah, Tu Bishvat and Holocaust Memorial Day.

Immigrating to Israel from St. Petersburg at the age of six, Elena grew up in a staunchly secular home. As a young adult, she tenaciously found her way back to Judaism. "I am a true Zionist. Because I love this country, I want it to be better and because I love Judaism, I want it to be different."

"I am a social activist who believes that Judaism has a central role to play in changing society."

- Elena Arons

The Schechter Institutes

“Learning in Order to Do”

(Pirkei Avot 4:5)



The Graduate
School



Schechter Rabbinical
Seminary



TALI Education
Fund



Neve Schechter Center
for Jewish Culture



Midreshet Schechter
in Ukraine



The Graduate School

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Saul Sanders

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Professor Doron Bar

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Numbers 2021-22

- 360 students
- 50 faculty members, 13 full-time, 37 part-time
- 12 interdisciplinary M.A. tracks of Jewish Studies
- 55 graduates in 2022; 1918 graduates since 1994
- 9 books published by Schechter and Schechter faculty
- Over 50 conferences/study events live and by Zoom

New President

Professor Ari Ackerman, respected scholar, popular lecturer and accomplished administrator, assumed his role as the sixth President of the Graduate School in October 2022. Ackerman is Associate Professor of Jewish Philosophy and Jewish Education and former Dean of the Graduate School. He holds a PhD in Jewish Philosophy from the Hebrew University, followed by postdoc research at the Institute for Advanced Studies at Princeton University. He has published extensively in the areas of medieval Jewish philosophy, modern Jewish Thought and the philosophy of Jewish Education. (See Profile, page 4).

Opposite page: Final project of the Schechter-HaKubia “Informed Creations” study track, attended by President Ari Ackerman (center).

Top Right: Prof. Doron Bar leads a study tour of Jerusalem’s City of David with Mount of Olives in the background.

Graduates of the Curatorial Studies Program curate their first exhibit in Jerusalem.

Professor Doron Bar, an historical geographer and expert on Holy Places in Israel, is stepping down from his role as President of the Schechter Institute after seven fruitful years at the helm. We wish both of them continued success.

Schechter Loses Beloved Lecturers

Schechter mourns the loss of Professor Eliezer Schweid, one of the founding faculty members of the Schechter Institute, preeminent Israeli philosopher, Jewish educator, recipient of the Israel Prize and intellectual force whose teachings influenced a generation in Israel and **Dr. Pnina Galpaz-Feller**, beloved lecturer in Bible whose dynamism and passion for the teaching of Bible made her one of Schechter’s most popular teachers.

Academic Promotions

Professors Ari Ackerman and David Frankel were promoted from Senior Lecturer to Associate Professor.

Kekst Faculty Fellow

The Kekst Faculty Fellow for 2021-23 is **Dr. Gila Vachman**. A Lecturer in Midrash at Schechter for more than a decade, Vachman also heads up the Torah Lishma Bet Midrash program at Neve Schechter. She is the editor of *Midrash Hadash Al Hatorah* and the author of a popular commentary on the Book of Ruth.

Academic Council Grants Marpeh Enhanced Standing

Marpeh, the only academic chaplaincy (CPE) program in Israel, has been approved as a major in the M.A. program, in recognition of the program’s high level courses and teaching standards. 28 students are currently enrolled in Marpeh, with 80 graduates working in the field.



Art Exhibits Showcase Student Talent

Schechter continues to nourish the connection between Judaism and the Arts with innovative programs.

- The first graduating class of the **Curatorial Studies Program** mounted an exhibit of local Israeli artists at Jerusalem’s Biennale Gallery. The exhibit was the culmination of three semesters of intensive study in the classroom and in gallery visits around Israel.
- Students of the “**Informed Creations**” study track, a joint program of Schechter and HaKubia Arts School, inaugurated a thought-provoking end-of-year exhibit at HaKubia. The program is an academic platform where Jewish traditional texts meet Israeli contemporary culture in multi-disciplinary art forms, culminating in original student works of art.

Adult Education a Winner on Zoom

In response to student feedback, Schechter made a strategic decision to continue its Adult Education program mostly online. The program, in English and Hebrew, continued to grow in 2021-22, with 35 classes (an increase of 50% over last year) reaching 500 students living in Israel, Europe, Australia and North America.



From left: At the graduation, Dr. Noa Yuval-Hacham congratulates an M.A. graduate; Dr. Einat Ramon presents Marpeh Supervisor’s Certificate.

Scholarship Enriching the Community



Schechter continued to reach both the academic community and the general public through its conferences, lectures and publications. Although “in-person” learning returned in 2021-22, the Schechter “Zoom Experience” has become a staple of educational outreach, enabling many more scholars and laypeople to enrich their knowledge.

- **Zooming into Pre-Holiday Learning** for the High Holidays, Hanukkah, Tu Bishvat, Purim, Passover and Shavuot, with four lectures each time reaching 80-100 participants
- **23rd National Women’s Study Days** in four languages, broadcast to 11 countries – Israel, US, Canada, France, Spain, Russia, Argentina, Mexico, Chile, Uruguay, Brazil, February and June 2022
- **Conversion in Israel Today**, SRS symposium on Conversion Reform, June 2022
- **Book Launch**, *Revelation and Authority* (Hebrew edition), Prof. Ben Sommer, JTS, May 2022 (see item opposite page)
- **International Reading of Megillat Hashoah**, four languages reaching 200 participants, co-sponsored by Beth David Congregation, Toronto, Masorti Olami, the Rabbinical Assembly and the Seminario Rabinico Latinoamericano, April 2022

Opposite page: Bible Track Advisor, Dr. Sarah Schwartz, greets panelists at the book launch of the Hebrew edition of "Revelation and Authority," by Prof. Benjamin Sommer, seated far right.

- **Annual Rabbi David Aronson Memorial Lecture** on Rabbi Ido Pachter's book, *Is there a Need for Religious Streams in Israel?* January 2022
- **Marpheh Conference** on A.D. Gordon as a Source for CPE in Israel, January 2022
- **Curated Exhibit**, *This Concludes the Ceremony*, final project of the first graduating class of the Curatorial Studies Program, January 2022
- **8th Annual Pirkei Avot Lecture in Memory of Dr. Aubey Rotenberg**, *Pirkei Avot in the Footsteps of Ben Sira*, Israel Prize Winner Prof. Vered Noam, with 526 viewers, January 2022
- **16th Annual Conference on Gender in Israeli Society** in memory of Moshe Shalvi z"l, *Gender Relations Among Minorities in Israel*, December 2021

New Books 2021-22

Published by Schechter

- *Responsa in a Moment*, Vol. 5, David Golinkin, 2021
- *NASHIM, a Journal of Jewish Women's Studies and Gender Issues*, eds. Renée Levine Melammed and Deborah Greniman, co-published by Hadassah Brandeis Institute and Indiana University Press. No. 39, Diasporic Jewish Women's Writing, Part 1, Spring 2022; No. 40, Part 2, Fall 2022
- *The Book of Esther*, Benjamin Segal, co-published by Gefen publishers, 2022

Published by Schechter Faculty

- *Hasdai Crescas on Codification, Cosmology and Creation*, Ari Ackerman, The Netherlands: Brill, 2022
- *Israel and the Diaspora Throughout the Ages*, edited by Ari Ackerman and Yossi Turner, Jerusalem: Carmel, 2022 (Hebrew)
- *Deep Pain and Sublime Joy*, Elan Ezrahi, Jerusalem: Carmel, 2022 (Hebrew)
- *A Tri-lingual Haggadah*, (1st edition, Rabbi Michael Graetz, 1993); Jerusalem, 2022 (Hebrew, Russian, English)
- *The Divine Light at the Root of the Soul: Spiritual Teachings of A.D. Gordon*, Einat Ramon, Ashdod: Nofech Books, 2022 (Hebrew)
- *Faithful Review*, David Sperber, Jerusalem: Magnes Press, 2021 (Hebrew)

Top: Guest speakers of "Gender in Israeli Society" Conference.
Bottom: Inter-religious Dialogue Course visits the Peace Mosque in Abu Ghosh outside of Jerusalem.



Bible Scholar Prof. Benjamin Sommer at Schechter

Schechter was privileged to host the book launch of the Hebrew edition of *Revelation and Authority* by world-renowned Bible scholar, Prof. Benjamin Sommer. The JTS Professor of Bible gave a keynote address at the launch, followed by a panel discussion. He also led a workshop at Bar Ilan University, a co-sponsor of the visit, which was organized by Bible Track advisor Dr. Sarah Schwartz (see picture opposite page).

International Conferences Showcase Schechter Faculty

- **18th World Congress of Jewish Studies**, Jerusalem, August 2022, lectures by Ari Ackerman, Doron Bar, Noa Yuval Hacham, David Frankel, David Golinkin, Tamar Kadari, Etka Liebowitz, Liora Pascal, Einat Ramon, Ronit Steinberg, Yossi Turner, Gila Vachman
- **The Heschel Conference on Jewish Peoplehood**, Tel Aviv, May 2022, lectures by Bat Ela Birnbaum, Dror Bondi, Tamar Elad Appelbaum, Tomer Persico, Chagit Sabag Yisrael, Peri Sinclair

Research at Schechter

Research at the Schechter Institute of Jewish Studies is conducted at its Center for Judaism and the Arts, The Center for Women in Jewish Law and the Institute of Applied Halakhah. [www.schechter.edu/Programs/Schechter Institute of Jewish Studies/Research Groups](http://www.schechter.edu/Programs/Schechter%20Institute%20of%20Jewish%20Studies/Research%20Groups).

In addition, **The Midrash Project** is publishing a series of critical editions of Midrashim as well as synopses of all manuscripts of many midrashim. <https://schechter.edu/the-midrash-project/>





Schechter Rabbinical Seminary

Chair, Board of Trustees:
Ilana Laderman Mushkin

Chair, Executive Committee:
Mariano Ptascinsky

Dean:
Rabbi Avi Novis-Deutsch

Spiritual Mentor:
Rabbi Dr. Reb Mimi Feigelson

SRS Consolidates Growth in Israel Creates New Opportunities in Europe

The Schechter Rabbinical Seminary continued to enhance its innovative academic and non-academic programs introduced over the last few years. At the same time, SRS has introduced a rabbinic studies program for Europe. Offering online courses to a number of promising students already engaged in building local congregations, the SRS initiative will bring these students to Jerusalem to complete their studies.

343 participants in SRS programs:

- 18 rabbinical students
- 22 *Mishlei* students who are engaged in Jewish renewal and community action
- 30 students in Torah Lishma programs in Jerusalem and Tel Aviv
- 35 students in the Ashira Jewish music program; 40 in pre-High Holiday Liturgy courses
- 36 special needs students in 3 Batei Midrash around the country and online
- 12 rabbis in advanced weekly Halakhah studies
- 150 students in *WhatsApp* Mishnah daily study groups

Rabbinical School Without Borders

SRS broke down barriers of geographic distance with the introduction of long distance learning for rabbinical students. This year, students from Austria, France, Ukraine and the Netherlands joined the SRS ordination program virtually, fulfilling requirements toward ordination. At some point, all students will travel to Jerusalem to study with their colleagues in person. It is hoped that this very positive trend will continue to expand in the years ahead. (See profile, page 5).

Ashira Jewish Music Program Infuses Life into Israeli Synagogues

The *Ashira* Jewish Music program to train lay prayer leaders, now in its fifth year, has had a substantial impact on spiritual life in Israel by making prayer more meaningful in countless Israeli synagogues. This year, 75 *Ashira* students took a leading role in Shabbat and High Holiday services throughout the country. Liturgical study is offered in four tracks: Ashkenazic, Sephardic, Moroccan and Contemporary Music.

Ashira Grads "Sing Out!" in new Zamru Program

In response to requests from *Ashira* graduates for continuing studies, *Zamru*, an advanced liturgy and prayer study program was born. A joint SRS-Fuchsberg Center initiative, participants in the pilot program produced three liturgical events for the general public, attracting over 200 participants.



Zamru participants prepare for an upcoming concert.

WhatsApp Mishnah Study Doubles Its Numbers

150 students (up from 80 students last year), met daily with SRS Dean Rabbi Avi Novis-Deutsch to study *Nashim*, one of the six orders of the Mishnah. Participants have the option of joining either the "silent" group or the "discussion" group. Most rewarding this year was the fact that the majority of students opted for discussion, making each session lively and full of debate.

31st Ordination Highlights Youth and Talent

Four SRS rabbis were ordained in December 2021 in the Bet Midrash in Jerusalem. **Rabbi Amirit Rosen** is spiritual leader of Jerusalem's Moreshet Avraham congregation, together with her husband, **Rabbi David Goodman**. **Rabbi Eitan Krul** has started a warm and inclusive new congregation in south Tel Aviv. **Rabbi Nava B. Meiersdorf** is the new rabbi of Jerusalem's venerable Moreshet Israel in the heart of the city, together with her colleague, SRS-ordained **Rabbi Dikla Drukman**. **Rabbi Danny Weininger** is campus rabbi of the Jewish Agency's Kivunim Gap Year Program.

Opposite page: Schechter's newest rabbi! From left: Amirit Rosen, Eitan Krul, Danny Weininger and Nava B. Meiersdorf.

Bottom row, from left: *Mishlei* student Kailey Halperin in the Bet Midrash; JTS students enjoy a walking tour of Jerusalem with Schechter colleagues.





TALI

Education Fund

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Board of Trustees:
Col (ret.) Roni Yannay
Susan and Scott Shay
Director General:
Dr. Peri Sinclair

TALI, Israel's largest pluralistic in-school Jewish studies program, is dedicated to strengthening Israeli society through promoting Jewish-Israeli identity, pluralism and Jewish continuity.

Numbers 2021-22

- TALI frameworks serve over 65,000 pupils and 3,000 educators in over 300 public schools and pre-schools throughout Israel
- **Professional Development:** Over 3,000 teachers participated in TALI Professional Development courses funded in part by the Ministry of Education. **Halleli:** study missions to New York, April 2022 and locally in Israel, July and December 2021, with a first-time Halleli alumnae study day, June 2022
- **Bar/Bat Mitzvah program** reaches almost 800 children
- **Dialogue and Identity Co-existence Program** almost doubles in Fall 2022: 38 schools, 1200 students, 80 teachers and 38 principals

Opposite page: A full auditorium for the *Dialogue and Identity* Songfest celebrating three religions in the Holyland.

Top right: Hallel Professional Development Study Mission to NYC visits the Lower East Side Tenement Museum.

Bar/Bat Mitzvah "Jewish Cloak" Seminar a Perfect Fit

The new Bar/Bat Mitzvah 2-day seminar was held in 12 TALI schools, reaching almost 800 students. The program content weaves threads of Jewish-Israeli identity to form a personalized "Jewish Cloak" for each participant.

2022-23: 10 additional schools to join, thanks to funding by Toddy and Irving Granovsky and Golda and Ned Steinman.

Dialogue and Identity: 38 schools and a 15-Year Celebration

TALI's *Dialogue and Identity* co-existence program celebrated its 15th year in May with a songfest where all 1200 of the program's Jewish and Arab children came together in songs of peace. With a generous 3-year grant from the EU, the program has almost doubled in size to 38 schools in 2022-23. Thanks to the Anne Heyman z"l and Seth Merrin Family Foundation, *Dialogue and Identity* has created meaningful relationships between Jewish children in TALI schools and Christian and Muslim children in Arab schools through teaching shared religious values. (see more on the Songfest, page 6).

Jewish-Israeli Identity Program Reaches Thousands of High Schoolers

Over 2,000 children participated in the TALI high school Jewish-Israeli Identity program as part of a 2-day seminar or within the classroom. For 2022-23, the Ministry of Diaspora Affairs, together with TALI, will offer a seminar on Jewish Peoplehood to an additional 2,000 students.

TALI Jewish Content to all Pre-Schools

The Ministry of Education has selected TALI to teach Jewish tradition to a cadre of early childhood educators who in turn will work with teachers of the entire network of secular pre-schools in Israel. TALI is now preparing a pre-school Shabbat Kit to be used by pre-schoolers throughout Israel.



TALI Digital: a Game-Changer

Remarkable growth in online use of TALI materials is changing how Israelis are exposed to TALI education. In 2021-22:

- More than 20,000 monthly users of TALI education websites
- E-mail newsletter subscribers increased 100%, reaching 7400
- Membership in a Facebook group of educators started by the Ministry of Education rose 200% from the time TALI began to contribute content, with 800 active members today
- The Visual Midrash website, undergoing a complete design and technology upgrade, will be re-introduced, Fall 2022
- The digitizing of all TALI Weekly Torah Portion materials is underway, creating an interactive site with links to music, movie clips, games and more
- The TALI Jewish Timeline, a ground-breaking digital tool now under development, will offer a multi-layered Jewish resource, currently missing from the Jewish educational field

Bottom, from left: a student with the TALI Bar/Bat Mitzvah study book; Students enjoy a new TALI game on the environment: *Reduce, Reuse, Recycle*; Jerusalem's TALI Geulim School hosts Ramla's Terra Sancta School in a *Dialogue and Identity* program.





Neve Schechter Legacy Heritage Center for Jewish Culture

Chair, Midreshet Schechter:
Rabbi Prof. David Golinkin

Executive Director,
Midreshet Schechter:
Rabbi Irina Gritsevskaya

Director, Neve Schechter:
Romina Reisin

Curator:
Bar Yerushalmi

Artistic Director:
Yael Biegon-Citron

A Return to "In-Person" Programming

Neve Schechter, one of Tel Aviv's most popular Jewish culture venues, returned to a full schedule of "live" programming in summer 2021. After more than 18 months of limited contact due to the pandemic, the talented staff at Neve Schechter has successfully strengthened community feeling while creatively engaging growing numbers of Israelis in a cultural and spiritual Jewish experience.

Numbers 2021-22

- 20,000 participants attended 55 lectures, concerts, holidays events and exhibits
- 70 Bar/Bat Mitzvahs, 8 weddings and 4 Brit ceremonies held in the Atid Sanctuary

Opposite page: Opening event of the Artists' Incubator, Neve Schechter courtyard, October 2021.

Right: "A Guide to Surviving the Passover Seder" in Atid Sanctuary.

Below, from left: *Oneg Rabot* musical exhibit; Bar Mitzvah in Neve Schechter courtyard; Dege Feder receives Neve Schechter Prize from Romina Reisin; "Word-Chase" Literary Event.

Masorti Kehillah of Neve Zedek

Neve Schechter houses the Masorti Congregation of Neve Zedek. Led by **Rabbi Roberto Arbib**, the Kehillah runs a hugely successful Bar/Bat Mitzvah program.

Neve Schechter Prize for Contemporary Israeli Art

Neve Schechter awarded the Third Annual Prize for Contemporary Israeli Art, sponsored by the **Yehoshua Rabinovich Foundation**, to dancer, choreographer and singer, **Dege Feder**, in June 2022. Dege creates an artistic meeting point between her Ethiopian Jewish roots and Israeli contemporary life.

New Initiatives

- **The Learning Community** attracted 600 participants in 2021-22, with 15 Judaism courses and ten holiday events. (See profile, page 10).
- **The Artists' Incubator** completed a second year with 12 actors, dancers, musicians and theater directors who met twice a month for peer-learning and Jewish text study. The group hosted a 4-day workshop where 120 artists and art students participated in 12 incubator-inspired sessions.
- **The Write Club** showcased six evenings of contemporary Hebrew literature, with six writers "dueling" over words through their original texts, 1500 participants, September 2021– August 2022
- **Music Events:** Neve Schechter hosted many music events sponsored by **Dr. David Braun**, in honor of his father, **Dr. Richard Braun**, including: the Third *Nigunim BTzedek* Festival, 20 musicians staged six Jewish music performances, 300 participants, November 2021; *From Eternity and Beyond* – an original music production on Baruch Spinoza's ideas, by composer-producer Assaf Talmudi, 120 participants, November 2021; Live music at 25 holiday, literary and gallery events.



- **Holiday Programming:** Selihot through arts and music, 150 participants, September 2022; Tisha B'av movie/lecture/gallery talk, 150 participants, August 2022; Tikkun Shavuot, 100 participants, June 2022; Memorial Day for Israeli Soldiers and Victims of Terror, study and ceremony, 140 participants, April 2022; Holocaust Memorial Day, multi-generational discussion, April 2022; "A Guide to Surviving the Passover Seder," 50 participants, April 2022, Megillat Esther all-women reading, Atid Sanctuary, 90 participants, March 2022; Women's Day Fashion Show dedicated to immigrants and refugees, 70 participants, March 2022; Tu Bishvat photo exhibit/Seder, 200 participants, January 2022; Hannukah community gathering, 80 participants, December 2021; Rosh Hashanah music/dance/study, 80 participants, October 2021

New Curator for the Schechter Gallery

The first two exhibits curated by **Bar Yerushalmi**, a young professional with an international background, made a strong impact on visitors. *Eve* by bio-artist **Liat Danieli** dealt with memories of motherhood and childhood. *Oneg Rabot* by voice artist **Michal Oppenheim**, depicted a futuristic synagogue led by women's voices from all streams of religious life. Both artists developed their exhibits at the **Schechter Gallery Residency Program**, led by Yerushalmi.





Midreshet Schechter Ukraine

Chair:
**Rabbi Prof. David
Golinkin**

Executive Director:
**Rabbi Irina
Gritsevskaya**

Rabbinic Shaliach,
Kyiv:
**Rabbi Reuven
Stamov**

Head of Kehillat Aviv,
Chernivtsi:
Lev Kleyman

February 24, 2022. Russian forces invade Ukraine, wrecking havoc on the nation's 41 million citizens. For Midreshet Schechter, the story takes on a personal dimension. For more than 30 years, from the fall of Communism, Schechter has been deeply involved in renewing Jewish life in four major cities throughout Ukraine. In a moment, Jewish education came to a halt, but what continued was Jewish caring and adherence to the maxim, *Kol Yisrael Arevim Zeh Bazah – All Israel is Responsible for One Another*.

Kehillat Aviv: Jewish Family Center Becomes Refugee Center

Executive Director Rabbi Irina Gritsevskaya, together with Lev Kleyman, Head of Chernivtsi's Kehillat Aviv (see profile, page 8), found hotel rooms and apartments in Chernivtsi to house hundreds of refugees from Midreshet Schechter communities streaming in from around the country and for thousands more that passed through the city as the war progressed. They helped expedite smooth emigration to points west into Europe and Israel. Lev and Kehillah volunteers provided hot meals, psychological support, enrichment classes, Hebrew ulpan and programming for children. They continue to house many who have decided to remain.

Opposite page: Refugee children making their own Seder plates in Chernivtsi's Aviv congregation.

Bottom, from left: Midreshet Schechter Executive Director Rabbi Irina Gritsevskaia prepares for a communal Pesach Seder with children of Chernivtsi's Kehillat Aviv; Young refugee in Chernivtsi receives food package from Kehillat Aviv; Lev Kleyman, with a congregant, takes out the Torah from their new Ark.

Schechter Provides Financial Life Raft

With the economy of Ukraine collapsed, Schechter and its partner Masorti Olami stepped in with crucial financial support for hundreds of families left with no jobs and no income. In addition, food and holiday packages continue to be sent to communities in Kharkiv, Kyiv and Odessa.

Schechter Emissaries Arrive for the Holidays

Purim: Rabbis Irina Gritsevskaia and Avi Novis-Deutsch brought Purim joy to Chernivtsi, along with kosher meat, medicines and a Megillah; **Pesach:** Rabbis Irina Gritsevskaia and Yoav Ende, SRS graduate and Executive Director of the Hannaton Educational Center, led a moving Seder for nearly 150 refugees and members of Kehillat Aviv; **Shavuot:** Rabbi Reuven Stamov joined his Kehillat Masoret in Kyiv where about 25 members continue to meet. Gila Katz, pedagogical advisor, and Etki Liebowitz, adult education director, traveled to Chernivtsi with kosher meat, treats and Israeli games for the children. Celebrations also took place for Israel Independence Day.

30th Annual Camp Ramah-Ukraine... in Romania!

War could not stop Camp Ramah-Ukraine. If anything, greater resolve resulted in creative and caring ways which transformed this year's oversubscribed Camp into the most memorable yet. Incredible logistics planning enabled the camp to take place at Pension Dracula in Romania.



Campers at the 30th Annual Camp Ramah-Ukraine, pose with a picture of founding donors, Harriet and Ben Teitel, Ben. N. Teitel Philanthropic Fund, held in Romania this year because of the war.

Camp Highlights:

- 90 campers – 77 from Ukraine and 13 refugees now based in Europe attended camp for 10 days in August. Those in Ukraine traveled for two days by bus in both directions to reach Romania and back. There are no flights to Romania.
- A special bus was sent to Kharkiv to pick up 16 children who had not been out of the ravaged city since the onset of hostilities. They spent a day in Chernivtsi and then continued to Romania. On the way home, they spent a few days in Chernivtsi.
- 15 counselors led the camp, women from Ukraine and men only from Israel, because men of draft age cannot leave Ukraine.

Teitel Camp Seminars Carry On

The Ben and Harriet Teitel Camp Ramah Yachad Ukraine Staff Seminars are crucial to the success of Camp Ramah-Ukraine, and this year was no exception. The pre-war 5-day Seminar was held in December 2021 in Chernivtsi and in early August at the camp site in Romania, with a total of 50 educators and counselors attending both sessions.





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Michal Makov Peled

North American
Representative:
Avrum Lapin,
The Lapin Group, LLC

Following two years of dealing with Covid, 2022 started with a massive crisis in Europe caused by the horrific invasion of Ukraine by Russia. A great deal of our energy was invested in enabling our community members and many others to escape, resettle, and sustain Jewish life under the most challenging of circumstances.

An emergency campaign was launched on the same day the war broke out. Over 400 (and counting!) donors gave a total of \$465,000 to date, embodying the saying: *“Kol Yisrael Arevin Zeh bazeh”* – all Jews are responsible for one another.

We can only express our deepest appreciation for the strong commitment demonstrated by our donor community to our mission and programs, and especially the devotion to our fellow brothers and sisters in need.

Over the past year (September 2021–August 2022), Schechter raised \$5,495,000 to fund the programs and operating expenses of our Graduate and Rabbinical Schools, TALI Education Fund, Neve Schechter and Midreshet Schechter in Ukraine. This fundraising success has ensured the stability of the four Schechter non-profits as they conduct outstanding programs and



New Gifts and Commitments (\$25,000 and up):

The Harvey L. Miller Family Foundation made a major multi-year commitment to renovate the Library and Administration Building on the Jerusalem Campus.

Robert S. Rifkind has generously established The Rifkind Endowment Fund, including The Rifkind Visiting Professorship for the Graduate School

- Isabell Adler, The David and Lee Adler Ashira Scholarship Endowment
- Anonymous, General Support, Graduate School
- Eric Ben-Hamou, The TALI Timeline Project
- Lester Crown, General Support, Graduate School
- The Liebhaber Family Foundation, Support for SRS' Ashira Musical Bet Midrash and the Learning Community Project at Neve Schechter
- The Sapir Center, Artists' Lab Project at Neve Schechter
- David and Elli Weinstein, M.A. Scholarships
- Peter and Deborah Wexler, General Support, Graduate School
- Ofer Yanay, General Support for TALI Education

Rifkind Endowment and Rifkind Visiting Professorship Established

Robert S. Rifkind, dear friend and patron, whose wise counsel as Chairman of the Schechter Board of Trustees guided the institution for many years, has established an endowment for the Graduate School which will fund the Rifkind Visiting Professorship and help sustain academic excellence through the years ahead. Schechter is profoundly grateful for this generous and important gift.

expand their impact in Jewish communities around the globe.

Our diverse funding community includes private individuals in North America and Israel, family foundations, JAFI and KKL, Jewish Federations, and the Israeli government. We are grateful to our many friends and partners and thank them for their sustained generosity.

Above: Schechter and TALI leadership celebrate *Dialogue and Identity's* 15th birthday at *Morning Song* – a songfest for over 1200 Arab and Jewish children. From left: Jennifer Dayan, Seth Merrin, Col. (ret.) Roni Yannay, Saul Sanders, Prof. Gil Troy, Eitan Cooper and Mary Sanders.

Below: Peter and Naomi Neustadter (2nd and 3rd from left) visit their adopted TALI school in Jerusalem, accompanied by Dr. Peri Sinclair, TALI Director General (left), Gila Barashi and school staff.





Left: A visit by William Davidson Foundation Board Members, Darin McKeever, Eli Saulson and Deena Pulitzer, with Schechter senior staff.

Mourning the Loss of Bruce Whizin

Bruce Whizin z"l of Los Angeles, a member of the Schechter Institutes Board for over 25 years, passed away this year. We remember Bruce's creative and free spirit, as well as his deep devotion to Jewish education in the L.A. community and in Israel.

Prof. David Golinkin Receives Bonei Zion Award

The prestigious Nefesh B'Nefesh Bonei Zion Prize for 2022 in the field of education was awarded to Prof. David Golinkin. The prize, established in 2013, formally recognizes the achievements of outstanding Anglo immigrants and their contribution to the State of Israel. We congratulate Prof. Golinkin who surely deserved this honor and wish him many more productive years in sharing pluralistic Jewish education throughout the State of Israel.

Learning with the President

Prof. David Golinkin taught numerous classes on Zoom and as a scholar-in-residence in 2021-22. **North America:** Zoom with "CHAT" 12 graders, Toronto, ON, June 2022; with Lev Kleyman, Chernivtsi, Update Ukraine, Florida Retirement Community, April 2022; Beth Israel, Zoom, Rabbi Jonathan Infeld, Vancouver, BC, March 2022; Moriah Congregation, Rabbi Ben Kramer, Deerfield, IL; Congregation Beth Shalom, Rabbi Dan Ain, San Francisco, CA, February 2022; Temple Beth Shalom, Rabbi Geoffrey Spector, Livingston, NJ, October 2021; Beth David, Toronto, September 2021 **The Conservative World:** Book Launch, Responsa in a Moment Vol. 5,

Harvey L. Miller Family to Name the Library and Administration Building

The Schechter Institutes wishes to acknowledge in deep appreciation the **Harvey L. Miller Family Foundation** for its generous gift to name the Library and Administration Building at the Schechter Jerusalem Campus. This donation enables Schechter to renovate and modernize the library and offices at Schechter, which serve more than 100,000 children and adults every year through its Graduate School, Rabbinical School, TALI Education Fund, Neve Schechter and Midreshet Schechter in Israel and Ukraine.

Schechter Leadership – News & Appointments

The Schechter Rabbinical Seminary Board appointed **Mariano Ptascinsky** as Chair of the Executive Committee in place of **Ilana Laderman Mushkin**, who remains Chair of the SRS Board. **Julian Levy** was appointed Treasurer of SRS. **Gaelia Lapidus** and **Julian Levy** were appointed to serve on the SRS Board of Governors.

The Schechter Institute Graduate School Board of Trustees and Executive Committee welcome new member **Dr. Yael Racov-Drory**. Both as a professional and volunteer, Yael has rich experience leading programs and NGOs that have helped to develop Israel's periphery.

The TALI Education Fund appointed two new members to its board: **Rabbi Ruti Bidets** and **Dr. Eyal Kaminka**.

Right: Prof. David Golinkin visits the grave of Prof. Solomon Schechter z"l at the Mount Hebron Cemetery, NY.





Mercaz USA and Mercaz Canada, June 2022; Cantor's Assembly Zoom "Mitzvah Ukraine" Benefit Concert, June 2022; Zoom Dvar Torah, Women's League Torah Fund, January and May 2022; RA Book Club Zoom, March 2022; RA ScholarStream Series, November 2021, 280 people on Zoom; Lecture on "Shmitah", Masorti Olami, October, 2021; Israel: Women's Study Day, June 2022; Bet Daniel, Tel Aviv, Conference, November 2021; Zooming Into: Shavuot, Purim, Tu Bishvat and Hanukkah

In the Media: Jerusalem Post: "Tisha B'av and the War in Ukraine," August 2022; "The Attributes of a Good Leader," July 2022; "From Purim to Putin" March 2022; "The Message of Hineni," September 2021; **Radio interview on Shmitah,** December 2021

"Zoom Outreach" Continues Post-Covid

Schechter created a successful hybrid model in 2021-22 that utilized both "in-person" learning in Jerusalem and Tel Aviv, together with its successful long-distance Zoom lectures. Meaningful Jewish study in Hebrew, English and Russian went out to communities in Israel and throughout the world, enriching the lives of thousands by connecting them to the Schechter study community.

- **"Zooming Into" Pre-Holiday Learning** for the High Holidays, Hanukkah, Tu Bishvat, Purim, Passover and Shavuot, with four lectures and 80-100 participants each time
- **International Reading of Megillat Hashoah**, four languages reaching 200 participants, co-sponsored by Beth David Congregation, Toronto, Masorti Olami, the Rabbinical Assembly and the Seminario Rabinico Latinoamericano, April 2022



- **ScholarStream lectures to Conservative communities worldwide:** Ethics Series with Rabbis Prof. David Golinkin, Dr. Reb Mimi Feigelson, Avi Novis Deutsch and Chaya Rowen Baker, November 2021; Israel Series with Profs. Doron Bar and David Frankel, Drs. Shula Laderman and Anat Rubinstein, May 2022

A True Mitzvah of a Bar Mitzvah Boy

Ben Blaustein, from New York, celebrated his Bar Mitzvah in the Atid Sanctuary of Neve Schechter's Masorti Synagogue in Neve Zedek in March 2022. Deeply moved by Rabbi Roberto Arbib's sermon on the plight of Schechter's Ukrainian Jewish communities, Ben, on the spot, decided to donate a substantial portion of his Bar Mitzvah gifts to aiding the needy in Ukraine. Ben, you set an example for us all!



Clock-wise from top: David and Elli Weinstein (second and third from left) with Prof. David Golinkin (right) and Michal Makov Peled (left); Celebrating Helmut Weillisch's 90th birthday at Beth Torah, North Miami Beach, from left: Rabbi Ed Farber, Rabbi Mario Rojzman, Prof. David Golinkin and Helmut Weillisch; Bar Mitzvah boy Ben Blaustein at Neve Schechter, Tel Aviv.

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2021-2022

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(in \$US) January 1, 2022 – December 31, 2022

Income		Expenses	
1. Schechter Institute of Jewish Studies Graduate School			
Foundations, JAFI, Federations	689,375	Faculty and Academic Salaries	1,440,697
Contributions	1,342,549	M.A. Student Tuition Scholarships	233,906
Tuition and Fees	1,059,063	Library, Academic Research, Publishing	347,022
Endowment Income	359,375	Other Educational/Academic Projects	219,156
Book Sales, Rental Income, Miscellaneous	217,400	Student Recruitment/Marketing	212,157
		Administration and Campus Maintenance	680,262
		Development and PR	534,562
Sub-Total	3,667,762		3,667,762
2. TALI Education Fund			
Jewish Agency	343,000	Educational Resources/Curriculum Development	274,473
Foundations and Federations	538,562	Pedagogic Counseling and School Guidance	330,271
Contributions	618,034	Informal Activities and School Resources	250,964
Israeli Government	153,125	Halleli and Professional Development	224,336
Earmarked Donations	403,533	Early Childhood Department	81,250
Fees for Sales, Services, Miscellaneous	96,063	Dialogue and Identity	241,052
		Special Projects and Digital Media	249,527
		Network Supervision and Evaluation	169,948
		Administration	330,496
Sub-Total	2,152,317		2,152,317
3. Schechter Rabbinical Seminary			
Jewish Agency, KKL, Israeli Govt.	145,041	Faculty Salaries	356,897
Contributions	426,533	Student Stipends and Internships	155,735
Earmarked Gifts and Grants	182,744	Ashira Music Program	140,625
Tuition and Fees	152,063	Torah Lishma in Tell Aviv and Jerusalem	44,312
Interest and Miscellaneous	21,538	Mishlei Program	71,333
		Administration	159,017
Sub-Total	927,919		927,919
4. Midreshet Schechter – Israel			
Jewish Agency	30,000	Schechter Centers – Adult Education Courses	130,085
Foundations and Federations	229,875	Neve Schechter Programming	360,938
Israeli Government/Municipalities	177,659	Neve Schechter Maintenance and Operations	171,406
Contributions	165,820	Administration	91,238
Rental, Participation Fees, Miscellaneous	150,313		
Sub-Total	753,667		753,667
5. Midreshet Schechter – Ukraine*			
Federations, JAFI, Israeli Govt	55,609	Camp Ramah and Noam Activities	77,200
Foundations	107,272	Rabbi/Shaliach Salary and Expenses	116,500
Contributions	233,531	Direct Aid to Communities	85,400
Masorti Olami	98,125	Educational Programs and Teacher Training	63,500
		Administration	91,738
Sub-Total	494,538		494,538
TOTAL	8,240,494		8,240,494

* In addition, through September 1, 2022, the Ukraine Emergency Campaign has raised \$446,000, which is being used for food, travel, rent, medicine, holiday programming and Camp Ramah-Ukraine.



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