



**The Shalom Hartman Institute's
Center for Lay Leadership Education**

28th Annual Summer Study Retreat



Sacred Jewish Narratives & Collective Memory

June 25 - July 2, 2008

כב' - כט' סיוון תשס"ח

Jerusalem, Israel

Shalom Hartman Institute – SHI

The Shalom Hartman Institute is a pluralistic research and leadership institute at the forefront of Jewish thought and education. We empower scholars, rabbis, educators and lay leaders to develop new and diverse voices within the tradition, laying foundations for the future of Jewish life in Israel and around the world. Our programs equip thousands of change agents a year with skills, knowledge and vision to create a new dialogue between Jews of diverse backgrounds, between classic Judaic sources and modernity, and between Judaism and other faiths.

The Center for Lay Leadership Education

The strength of a Jewish community largely depends on the commitment of its lay leaders. These prominent individuals from a variety of fields serve as community leaders who, together with rabbis and other Jewish professionals, promote Jewish communal values such as pluralism and continuity beyond the walls of any particular institution. Our programs serve to deepen and broaden the knowledge, skills and impact of lay leaders on Jewish life. One of four centers at SHI, the Center for Lay Leadership Education currently includes four areas of programming:

1. **Global Beit Midrash** – Cutting-edge international programs of monthly study sessions led by the Institute's top scholars and broadcast live to 15 community sites in North America. The program involves partnerships with 20 organizations and serves more than 300 participants.
2. **Lay Leadership Study Retreats** – Nearly three decades of annual week-long intensive Jerusalem study retreats for lay leadership from across the North American denominational spectrum. The retreats include text study, political analysis, excursions, and encounters with Israeli lay, professional and military leadership.
3. **Israeli Lay Leadership Beit Midrash Programs: *Ma'agalim*** – Bi-weekly text study programs for Israeli lay leadership that currently take place in three locations: Jerusalem, Tel Aviv and the Galilee. The program also includes a new track for foundation and federation professionals in Israel. In the coming fall, *Ma'agalim* will expand further to include new partnerships with Israel's Ministry of the Interior and Foreign Ministry, as well as with the alumni of the Wexner Foundation Israel Fellowship.
4. ***Lev Aharon*: Israeli Defense Forces Leadership Training Program in Judaism, Democracy and Tolerance** – A program that has to date worked with more than 1,200 senior military officers of the IDF. Focusing on the interplay of Judaism and democracy in Israeli identity, the program recently expanded to include officers in the ranks of lieutenant colonels and colonels.

Summer 2008 Lay Leadership Study Retreat Theme:
Sacred Jewish Narratives & Collective Memory

While narratives such as the Exodus from Egypt, the revelation at Sinai, and the destruction of the Temples serve as common foundations of Judaism, their varying interpretations have given rise to great diversity within the Jewish community. Through a close study of significant texts, major holidays, life cycle rituals and historical events, we will explore the paradoxical role of Jewish narratives, addressing some of the following questions:

- What are the foundational narratives that we all share?

- How do our narratives and rituals create a unique Jewish memory?

- What values do the narratives teach? What kind of human being do our narratives seek to create?

- How do different interpretations of core narratives influence Jewish life today?

- What are the competing narratives of Israeli society and identity? How will these narratives influence the future of Israel-Diaspora relations?

In celebration of the State of Israel's sixtieth year, our program this summer emphasizes a variety of challenges and achievements of Israeli society and culture, including encounters with Israeli thinkers, artists, political personalities and military leaders as well as excursions into various arenas of Israeli life.

Retreat Program:

~Please note that this schedule is subject to change~

Each participant will be assigned to one of two groups. Where two faculty members are listed for a study session, the first teaches Group One and the second Group Two

Sacred Jewish Narratives & Collective Memory

Wednesday, June 25

18:00 – 18:30	Registration	Sharon Laufer/ Meriav Fishman	Osher Plaza
18:30 – 19:30	Opening Dinner: Welcome and Introductions	Donniel Hartman/ Rachel Sabath Beit-Halachmi	Tauber Hall
19:30 – 21:00	Study Session: Jewish Narratives & the Ethics of Memory	Moshe Halbertal / Donniel Hartman	

Thursday, June 26

09:00 – 11:00	Study Session: How Do the Biblical Narratives Create a People? I	Yisrael Knohl / Alfredo Borodowski	Upper Lafer Two Upper Lafer One
11:00 – 11:15	Break		
11:15 – 13:15	Study Session: How Do the Biblical Narratives Create a People? II	Chaim Seidler-Feller / Yisrael Knohl	Upper Lafer Two Upper Lafer One (with Air Force officers)
13:15 – 14:00	Lunch		
14:00 – 16:00	On the Complexity of Israeli Identity	Micah Goodman	Beit Midrash (together with IDF senior officers)
16:00 – 18:30	Break		
18:30 – 19:30	Dinner		Tauber Hall
19:30 – 22:00	Evening Lecture: Israel's New Internal Challenges	Benyamin Netanyahu TBC	Beit Midrash

Friday, June 27

9:00 – 11:00	Study Session: The Rabbinic Narratives about God	David Hartman/ Donniel Hartman	Upper Lafer One Upper Later Two
11:00 – 11:15	Break		
11:15 – 13:15	Study Session: "Women Out, Women In:" Gender and Power in Rabbinic Narratives	Rachel Sabath Beit-Halachmi / Avital Campbell Hochstein	Upper Lafer One Upper Lafer Two
13:15 – 14:30	Lunch		
14:30 – 19:00	Shabbat Preparations		
19:00 – 20:30	<i>Kabbalat Shabbat</i> at Synagogue of choice		(see information in registration packets)
20:30	Shabbat Dinner at the Shalom Hartman Institute		Osher Plaza

Shabbat, June 28

11:00 – 11:30	<i>Kiddush</i>		Tauber Hall
11:30 – 13:00	Study Session: The Rabbinic Narratives of Religious Leaders	Donniel Hartman/ David Hartman	Upper Lafer One Upper Lafer Two
13:00 – 14:00	Lunch		Tauber Hall
14:00 – 18:00	Break or Optional Walking Tours Free Evening		

Sunday, June 29

09:00 – 10:30	Orientations for Excursions		
10:30 – 11:00	Break - collect Box Lunches		
11:00 – 18:00	Excursions:		
	I: Biblical Narratives: Is the Bible True? Lenses on the Bible Through Archeology	Aren Maeir	
	II: Is Tel Aviv a Jewish City? The Modern Israeli	Roni Jaeger	

Narratives of Tel Aviv

III: Beyond the Walls: Stories of the Creation of a New Jerusalem

Elan Ezrahi

18:00 - 19:00 Dinner

19:00 – 20:30 Evening Lecture:
**Competing Narratives of
Israeli Society: Yom
HaShoah and Yom
HaZikaron**

Donniel Hartman

Beit Midrash

Monday, June 30

09:00 - 11:00 Presentation:
**The Transformation of
Israeli Society and the
Work of the Shalom
Hartman Institute**

Alfredo Borodowski,
Rachel Sabath Beit-
Halachmi, Bill Berk,
Ariel Picard

Tauber Hall

11:00 – 11:30 Break

11:30 – 13:30 Study Session:

Medieval Jewish Narratives

Alfredo Borodowski/
Menahem
Lorberbaum

Upper Lafer One

Upper Lafer Two

13:30 – 17:30 Break

17:30-18:45 Panel Discussion &
Havruta Journal Launch

Conversion Controversies: Identity, Boundaries and the Future of the Jewish People

David Ellenson,
Donniel Hartman,
and Einat Ramon
with Stuart
Schoffman, as
moderator

Beit Midrash

(with the Rabbinic Program
IDF Lieutenant Colonels
and Israeli Lay Leaders)

18:45 – 19:30 Dinner

19:30 – 20:30 **An Evening with David
Hartman**

David Hartman

Beit Midrash

(with Rabbinic Program)

Tuesday, July 1

09:00 – 11:00 Study Session:

Mystical Readings of Sinai: What Do We Choose to Remember?

Melilah Hellner-Eshed
/ Adam Afterman

11:00 - 11:15	Break		
11:15 - 13:00	Study Session: Holocaust Narratives and Jewish Memory	Rachel Korazin/ Moshe Halbertal	Tauber Hall
13:00 – 14:00	Lunch		Tauber Hall
14:00 – 17:00	Optional Excursions/Break		
17:30 – 19:00	Evening Lecture: Visions of a New American Judaism and its Relationship to Israel	David Ellenson & Avraham Weiss	Beit Midrash (with Rabbinic Program)
19:00 – 20:00	Dinner		Tauber Hall
20:00 – 21:30	Celebrating Israel at 60: Israel's Musical-Textual Renaissance: "Journey to the Sources"	Shlomo Gronikh	Beit Midrash (with Rabbinic Program)

Wednesday, July 2

09:00 – 10:30	Study Session: The Narratives of Contemporary North American Jewry	David Ellenson / Ed Feinstein	Upper Lafer Two Upper Lafer One
10:30 - 11:00	Break		
11:00 – 12:30	Study Session: The Narratives of Israeli Judaism	Rani Jaeger/ Ariel Picard	Upper Lafer One Upper Lafer Two
12:30 - 13:30	Program Summary Session:	Donniel Hartman	Beit Midrash
13:30 – 14:30	Closing Lunch		

Faculty

David Hartman, Co-Director of SHI, is a leading contemporary Jewish philosopher and internationally renowned author. Born in Brooklyn in 1931, David Hartman immigrated to Israel with his family in 1971, as an expression of his mission to enhance relations between Jews of diverse affiliations and help build a pluralistic and tolerant Israeli society. With this unique vision David founded SHI in 1976, naming it after his father. Recognized for his unique contribution to Jewish life, David received the Avi Chai Prize in 2000 and the Guardian of Jerusalem Prize on SHI's 25th anniversary. He also received honorary doctorates from Yale University and Hebrew Union College, along with The Hebrew University of Jerusalem's Samuel Rothberg Prize for Jewish Education. David's publications include: *A Living Covenant: The Innovative Spirit in Traditional Judaism*; *A Heart of Many Rooms: Celebrating the Many Voices Within Judaism*; *Israelis and the Jewish Tradition: An Ancient People Debating Its Future*; and *Love and Terror in the God Encounter: The Theological Legacy of Joseph B. Soloveitchik*, all of which have been translated into numerous foreign languages.

Donniel Hartman, Co-Director of SHI, holds a Ph.D. in Jewish philosophy from The Hebrew University of Jerusalem, as well as M.A. in political philosophy from NYU and an M.A. in religion from Temple University. In the past decade and a half, Donniel founded some of the largest and most extensive training and enrichment programs for Israeli and North American educators and rabbis; these programs work collectively with hundreds of educators and rabbis each year, and impact on tens of thousands of youth and adults of all denominations. Donniel is the co-author of a new core curriculum in Jewish philosophy for the secular Israeli public high school system. Prior to assuming his position at SHI, Donniel served as Judaic Scholar-in-Residence at the Jewish Community Center of Tenafly New Jersey for more than ten years, during which time he pioneered the Scholar in Residence model for the J.C.C. field.

Alfredo Borodowski is Executive Director of the American Friends of the Shalom Hartman Institute (AFSHI). Alfredo holds a Ph.D. from the Jewish Theological Seminary, a law degree from the University of Buenos Aires, and was ordained as a rabbi by the Seminario Rabinico Latinoamericano. Alfredo teaches at JTS's rabbinical and graduate schools, and has served as a pulpit rabbi for over a decade. He helped found *Makor*, where he currently serves as Scholar-in-Residence, authors the quarterly column *Miriam's Well* in the popular JNF newsletter *Together*, and founded the Estelle Silverston Foundation for Jewish Spiritual Revival. Alfredo has written extensively in academic and popular journals, and recently published a book titled *Isaac Abravanel on Miracles, Creation, Prophecy, and Evil*.

David Ellenson is president of Hebrew Union College – Jewish Institute of Religion (HUC-JIR) and I. H. and Anna Grancell Professor of Jewish Religious Thought. A distinguished rabbi, scholar and leader of the Reform Movement, David is internationally recognized for his publications and research in the areas of Jewish religious thought, ethics, and modern Jewish history. David holds a Ph.D. from Columbia University and was ordained by HUC-JIR. He is a fellow and lecturer at The Hebrew University of Jerusalem's Institute of Advanced Studies. His most recent book, *After Emancipation*, is the winner of the National Jewish Book Award.

Ed Feinstein is senior rabbi of Valley Beth Shalom in Encino, California. Ed serves on the faculty of SHI, the Ziegler Rabbinical School of the University of Judaism, and the

Wexner Heritage Foundation. He is a columnist for the Jewish Journal of Greater Los Angeles and lectures across the US. His first book, *Tough Questions Jews Ask – A Young Adult's Guide to Building a Jewish Life*, was one of the American Library Association's Top Ten Books on Religion for Young Readers and a finalist for the National Jewish Book Award. He is the editor of *Jews and Judaism in the Twenty-First Century: Human Responsibility, the Presence of God and the Future of the Covenant*. Ed holds degrees from the University of California at Santa Cruz, the University of Judaism, Columbia University, and JTS where he was ordained in 1981.

Micah Goodman is a Junior Scholar and faculty member at SHI. He holds a Ph.D. from The Hebrew University of Jerusalem in Jewish philosophy, and is a lecturer both there and at Tel Aviv University. Micah is head of the Chai Academy in Alon and has published articles on the thought of Maimonides and Nahmanides in various journals.

Moshe Halbertal, a Senior Fellow at SHI, teaches philosophy and Jewish thought at The Hebrew University of Jerusalem. Moshe was a visiting professor at Harvard University's Law School and a fellow in the university's Society of Fellows. His publications in English include *Idolatry*, which he co-authored with Avishai Margalit, and *People of the Book*, both published by Harvard University Press. In 1999, Moshe became the first recipient of the newly instituted Bruno Prize, established by the Rothschild Foundation; the prize parallels the coveted MacArthur prize in the United States and enables promising scholars to dedicate three years to their research.

Melila Hellner-Eshed, a senior fellow at SHI, has a PhD in Jewish mysticism from The Hebrew University of Jerusalem. Melila teaches mysticism at The Hebrew University of Jerusalem, the Conservative Rabbinical Seminary in Jerusalem, and Hebrew Union College. A central figure in the Israeli renaissance of Jewish textual study, Melila directs a beit midrash for 'Revivim', The Hebrew University of Jerusalem's honors teacher training program. Melila is active in the Israeli-Palestinian Sulha Peace Project. Her book, *A River Issues from Eden – On the Language of Mystical Experience in the Zohar*, was recently published in Hebrew and is scheduled to be published in English in 2007.

Rachel Sabath Beit-Halachmi is Director of Lay Leadership Education at SHI and is working towards a doctorate in Jewish philosophy. Rachel was ordained at Hebrew Union College – Jewish Institute of Religion in New York in 1995 and currently teaches liturgy and modern Jewish thought at Hebrew Union College. She is a Wexner Foundation Graduate Fellow alumna and has served on the faculties of CLAL, the Wexner Heritage Foundation, and the Skirball Center. Rachel is co-author of *Preparing Your Heart for the High Holy Days* and *Striving Toward Virtue: A Contemporary Guide to Jewish Ethical Behavior*. For twelve years Rachel has served as the rabbi of Congregation Shirat HaYam in Nantucket during the High Holidays.

Chaim Seidler-Feller has been working with students and faculty as UCLA's Hillel Director for thirty-three years. He was ordained in 1971 at Yeshiva University where he completed a Masters in Rabbinic Literature. Chaim is a lecturer in the Departments of Sociology and Near Eastern Languages and Cultures at UCLA and is a faculty member of the Shalom Hartman Institute for Advanced Jewish Studies in Jerusalem, and of the Wexner Heritage Foundation. He was a founding member of Americans for Peace Now and serves on the Rabbinic Cabinet of Brit Tzedek v' Shalom. He was a rabbinic consultant to Barbara Streisand during the making of the film Yentl.

Program Staff

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