

Prof. Alice Shalvi is known for her groundbreaking work in women's rights and education for girls. She is the founder of the Israel Women's Network, a principal of Pelech High School, past president and chair of the executive board of The Schechter Institute of Jewish Studies, of which she currently serves as a member. Prof. Shalvi is the mentor of The Masorti Women's Study Day and is the 2007 recipient of the Israel Prize for her contribution to Israeli Society.

Dr. Brenda Bacon heads the Jewish education and values education tracks of the M.A. degree in Jewish Studies at the Schechter Institute. She teaches courses on gender and education as well as curriculum and ideologies. She also coordinates the Ramot Jerusalem branch of Kolech, an Israeli religious feminist organization.

Ethel Barylka has a BA in Hebrew literature and philosophy and an MA in Contemporary Jewry from the Hebrew University. She studied rabbinical advocacy in Jerusalem and writes, teaches and coordinates workshops related to women and Judaism. She worked for 25 years in various institutions including Yad Vashem, the Jewish Agency, the Mibereshit Foundation and Jewish educational missions in Mexico, Brazil, Uruguay, and Argentina. She is the author of *Notes for Postmodern Jewish Identity* (2002, Keter Publishing, Israel) and publishes a weekly column about Parashat Hashavua. She directs the project "Women and Judaism" in Spanish – www.muJerryjudaismo.com.

Ariel Ben Moshe, has degrees in English Literature, History and Philosophy, Analytical Psychology, and Jewish Studies. She was ordained by The Academy for Jewish Religion (1995). She was a Jungian psychotherapist from 1978 to 1992.

Rabbi Tamar Elad-Appelbaum is associate dean of the Schechter Rabbinic Seminary in Jerusalem. A former rabbi of Congregation Magen Avraham, Omer in the Negev, she is founder of the Makhillim program and former assistant rabbi in Temple Israel Center, White Plains, New York. She is a member of the boards of the RA in Israel, the Masorti movement, Menucha Nechona Jerusalem, and more. She received her undergraduate degree from the department of Jewish Philosophy, Hebrew University and her graduate and rabbinic degrees from the Schechter Institute in Jerusalem. She writes on contemporary Jewish Israeli thought and poetry.

Nili Arbel grew up in Jerusalem. She studied in Midreshet Lindenbaum, Migdal Oz Beit Midrash, and has a B.A. in Humanities from the Open University as well as a teacher's certificate from Herzog College. She taught at Livnot U'Lehibanot, an educational-experiential program for young adults from abroad who have minimal Jewish background. She also taught in a religious high school for girls. Nili is one of the central forces behind the development of TAL TORAH's Life Cycle programs and has been part of the TAL TORAH staff since 2002, and is currently its director of education.

Rabbi Serena Eisenberg was ordained at the Reconstructionist Rabbinical College in 2002, where she was a Wexner Graduate Fellow, after working as a lawyer and social worker in the area of family and child welfare. She served as the rabbi and executive director for the Brown University/RISD Hillel from 2005-2007. Since moving to Israel in 2008, Serena was a Jerusalem Fellow at the Mandel Educational Leadership Institute and directed a project on Jewish Peoplehood at the Re'ut Institute. She currently is spiritual director for the Reconstructionist Rabbinical College Israel program and teaches at Kehillat Hod V'Hadar in Kfar Saba.

Rabbi David Golinkin is president of the Schechter Institute for Jewish Studies. He is considered one of the foremost halachic scholars in the Masorti/Conservative movement worldwide. His books include *The Status of Women in Jewish Law*.

Dr. Rivka Goldberg has a PH.D. in Jewish Thought from Hebrew University. She taught Hassidic Literature at Hebrew University and currently teaches Early Women's Literature and Children's Literature at The Schechter Institute. She is editor of *Masechet*, about women in the Jewish world and in Jewish sources.

Eva Etzioni-Halevy is professor emeritus in sociology at Bar-Ilan University. She has written extensively on sociology, but recently has been writing novels about women in the Bible in English and in Hebrew. Her most recent novel in English is *The Triumph of Deborah* (Plume/Penguin, 2008)..

Rabbi Shira Israel, who was born in Iran, has been involved in the study and teaching of Jewish meditation, visualization, and spirituality for the past 18 years. After living in California for 20 years she moved to Israel where she received her ordination from the Schechter Institute in 2000. She then served as rabbi of Kehilat Shalva in Zfat for two years. She is currently engaged in spiritual counseling, teaching, writings and organizing the Center of Jewish Spirituality for Women.

Marina Shunra Karpov was born in St.Petersburg (Russia), from 2006 lives in Israel. Graduate of St.-Petersburg State University, Sociological faculty (MA), Senior Educators Program, Melton Center for Jewish Education, Hebrew University (Jerusalem) and Beit midrash program for women of Beit-Morasha in Jerusalem. From 1998 works in Jewish Education for Russian speakers, as lecturer, educational consultant and methodist

Rabbi Sandra Kochmann was born in Paraguay and made aliya in November 2005. She was ordained at Masorti's Seminario Rabínico Latinoamericano in Buenos Aires in 2000. She holds a BA in Nonprofit Organization and Administration from Universidad Hebrea-Argentina Bar Ilan and is presently studying toward an MA in women's studies at the Schechter Institute. As rabbi at the ARI Congregation in Rio de Janeiro, she was the first woman to hold a rabbinical post in Brazil. She is the coordinator of the Kehilla Masortit Mishpachtit in Jerusalem's Bet Hakerem neighborhood and also teaches conversion classes for both Masorti and the government's Joint Institute for Jewish Studies. In October 2008 she was appointed Masorti's coordinator for weddings and giyur.

Alla Kucherenko has a B.A. in Hebrew Language and a teaching diploma from Jewish University in Moscow and Moscow Open Pedagogic University. She studied Hebrew literature at Hebrew University and participated in publishing of Agnon's stories in Russian for the Jewish School Education. Now she currently is working at the Yad Vashem Museum. Alla finished the 3-year program of Mishna and Gemora studies at the Bet Morasha in Jerusalem and studied at the Rotenberg Center for Jewish Psychology. She has been teaching at the Women Study Days since 2004. Also studied in Rotenberg Center for Jewish Psychology. From 2004 teaches at the Women Study Days.

Rabbi Dr. Dahlia Marx is an Assistant Professor of Liturgy and Midrash at Hebrew Union College in Jerusalem. **She** was ordained at Hebrew Union College and received her Doctorate from Hebrew University . She wrote "When I Sleep and When I Wake, on Prayers Between Dawn and Dusk". Dr. Marx, a 10th generation Jerusalemite is teaching in numerous contexts in Israel and in Europe and is engaged in a variety of research, liturgy and other work.

Dr. Sara Strassberg-Dayan, born in Uruguay, is a graduate in Philosophy and Theatre from the National University of Buenos Aires. In Israel from 1975, in 1988 she received a doctorate in Jewish Thought from Hebrew University. She has taught at Hebrew University and Ben Gurion University and now teaches at the Schechter Institute. She has published books and plays in Spanish and Hebrew.

Cantor Shula Reznick made aliyah from Latvia in 1995. She received ordination from the Maalot Seminary in 2004 and graduated from the Si'im Israeli Folk Dance instructor program in 2008. She has extensive experience in both the performing arts and Jewish communal work in Israel, the former USSR and the United States. Shulamit has served as director of the Eilat Folkdance Ensemble (Riga, 1992-1995), spiritual leader of the Beit-Chaverim Congregation (Calvert County, Maryland, 2003-2005) and director of the Shirat Hasharon immigrant outreach program (Raanana and surroundings, 2005-2008).

Dr. Biti Roi completed her B.A. in Jewish Thought & Philosophy at Hebrew University with distinction. She lectures at The Shalom Hartman Institute in Jewish Culture, in summer Rabbinic Seminars and for communal leaders and discourses with Christian Leadership. While in New York she lectured at The Rabbinic Seminar in Manhattan, at Stern College, Yeshiva University and gave lectures throughout North America. She is completing her doctorate in the literature of the Zohar (Kabbalah).

Rabbi Diana Villa, born in Argentina, is a graduate of the Rabbinical School of the Shechter Institute. She has been a major researcher at the Center for Women in Jewish Law until the Center's work was recently interrupted. She is the co-author of *Za'akat Dalot-Halachic Solutions for the Agunot of Our Time* and a book in English with a selection of rabbinic questions and answers. Rabbi Villa is a lecturer in Jewish law at The Schechter Rabbinical School and represents Schechter at ICAR, The International Coalition for Agunah Rights. She is vice president of the Rabbinical Assembly, one of three Masorti representatives on the board of the Institute of Jewish Studies and belongs to an interfaith group with Palestinian Muslim and Christian religious leaders.

Stacy Yehoshua, a clinical psychologist, has a B.A. in psychology and Middle East Studies from Hebrew University and an M.A., from Bar Ilan University. She has 14 years experience at the Rape Crisis Center, both as member of the staff and as a volunteer on the hotline. She heads the track for psychologists doing their Internships at Or Shalom Institutions and has her own private practice.