

TALI participants
in the leadership
development course

learned
Jewish studies
every Wednesday
at Schechter.

They share
Jewish
knowledge
every day
of the week.

24 | 7

“ Schechter presented us with new ways to approach Judaism. For me, Jewish knowledge is a direct line to Jewish continuity. We are taking this line back to our classrooms so each one of our students can reach out to it.

Ilana Tischler
Principal, TALI Usshishkin School, Netanya

The 'tipping point' came last year at Chanukah. We had a parents' night of learning before the holiday. I felt insecure and sure that they would know more than me. But that evening I learned that I could teach Jewish subjects. It was a very rewarding moment... For Passover, I was put in charge of the ceremony for the entire school.

Marina Reznikov
4th grade teacher, TALI Har-EI School, Ashkelon

I came to Schechter balking all the way. My entire life I perceived Judaism as a religion of 'no's, 'can't do's and 'forbidden actions.' TALI and Schechter have introduced me to a world previously unknown: a Judaism that is kind and warm and encouraging of positive actions.

Idit Ben Ami
7th grade teacher and counselor, TALI Bet Hinuch Junior High School, Jerusalem

The courses at Schechter allow us an 'opening.' The answer is not always there, but the path to learning is. This critical and non-doctrinaire approach is what guides us in adapting the course material to our classrooms.

Hanni Shapira
5th grade teacher, TALI Usshishkin School, Netanya



Ilana Tischler

Principal, TALI Usshishkin School, Netanya

Fourteen years principal of TALI Usshishkin; spent time in U.S. as shlichah (emissary) where she also earned an M.A. from UC Irvine and a PhD from Ohio State University. Now on sabbatical, Ilana directs the "Tarbut" Jewish Day School in Mexico City.



Marina Reznikov

4th grade teacher, TALI Har-EI School, Ashkelon

Made aliyah in 1993 from a small town in Latvia where she was a teacher. Received teaching certificate in Israel and joined a TALI school in Ashkelon four years ago.



Idit Ben Ami

7th grade teacher and counselor, TALI Bet Hinuch Junior High School, Jerusalem

Worked as a high school teacher (10th-12th grades) of Hebrew language and literature her entire teaching career. When TALI entered her school, she agreed to take on the double challenge of a new grade (7th) and a new curriculum (TALI).



Hanni Shapira

5th grade teacher, TALI Usshishkin School, Netanya

20th year in teaching; began her career in special education; has been at the TALI Usshishkin school for 14 years.

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SUNDAYS

24 | 7

MONDAYS

24 | 7

TUESDAYS

24 | 7

WEDNESDAYS

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First grade students at TALI Bayit V'gan, Jerusalem



TALI teachers learning in the Leadership Development Course



Pre-schoolers, Pisgat Zeev TALI school



\$1 Million Dollar Grant Allows for 20% Leap in TALI Growth: 13 New Elementary Schools and 7 Pre-Schools

The TALI Education Fund received a gift of one million dollars in June 2005 through the good offices of PEF Israel Endowment Funds, Inc. As a result of this and other gifts, the TALI network is expanding by 20% in 2005-06.

	schools	pre-schools
2005	50	67
2006	63	74

Prizes

Genger Prize for Outstanding TALI Principal

The winner of the fourth Shraga and Devorah Genger Prize for Outstanding TALI Principal for 2003 was Aviva Oren, principal of the Ma'ale Adumim Mamlachti Gimel School outside Jerusalem. Presenting the award in December 2004 was Salai Meridor, Chairman of the Executive of the Jewish Agency and the WZO.

TALI Pre-School Teacher Wins Education Award

Mira Lilian, teacher at the TALI Frankel kindergarten in Jerusalem, won the prestigious Jerusalem Department of Education prize for best pre-school educator in the city.

- ▶ 14 pedagogic counselors worked with teachers and principals in TALI schools, helping more than 700 teachers plan lessons and providing resource materials; six of the counselors are Schechter MA program graduates
 - ▶ 6 early childhood counselors worked with teachers in 67 TALI pre-schools on curriculum and implementation
 - ▶ 16 training seminars for pedagogic counselors were held during the year on "teaching prayer," including a national conference for 200 teachers, and a two-day workshop for music teachers
 - ▶ 204 Teachers' Room Workshops were held in all TALI schools where lecturers, many coming from the Schechter Institute, taught classes designed to enrich the teachers' Jewish backgrounds and build a common basic vocabulary of Jewish knowledge
- A sampling of courses: Window to the World of Prayer; TALI Culture in the School; Art as a Tool in Teaching Jewish Subjects; Introduction to Talmud; Jewish Feminism – Educational Implications; Issues in Modern Jewish Thought; Streams in Judaism; Ideological Identity and Jewish Education; Window to the World of Midrash
- ▶ 82 informal educational activities were facilitated in 27 schools with 6,000 TALI pupils and thousands of parents participating, including:
 - ▶ 53 TALI Parent-Child Workshops
 - ▶ 13 Bar-Bat Mitzvah Seminars
 - ▶ 16 "Pinat Shorashim" Seminars at Kibbutz Gezer
 - ▶ 6 National Service volunteers, ages 18-19 worked full time for TALI this past year, marketing and facilitating TALI experiential activities.



Genger Prize winner Aviva Oren, congratulated by Adv. Itay Hachohen, Genger family representative and TALI Board member



TALI National Service volunteers planning a workshop

TALI education fund

The TALI Education Fund (TEF) supports the growing network of 137 Israeli public schools and pre-schools from the Galilee to Eilat that have taken up the challenge of teaching Judaism to their 25,000 pupils, using a pluralistic, inclusive approach to Jewish life. Through TALI experiential learning, children gain direct access to their Jewish heritage, learn the values of social justice and the sanctity of human life embodied in Judaism, and develop a strong sense of connection with the Jewish people.

New Programs... New Initiatives

Talking TALI in Tel Aviv

TALI has made a significant breakthrough in “secular” Tel Aviv. The TALI Education Fund is establishing an outreach center in Tel Aviv, which will work intensively with six Tel Aviv schools. The project, to begin in Fall 2005, will expose over 2,500 pupils, their teachers and parents to an open and relevant Judaism through TALI education. In these pilot schools, TALI will conduct teacher training, parent-teacher learning communities, family education, and curricular guidance as well as market the program with the goal of expansion to additional schools in 2006-07. The three rabbis involved, Roberto Arbib, David Lazar, and Elisha Wolfen, all of whom are graduates of the Schechter Rabbinical Seminary, are outstanding spiritual educators capable of working with sophisticated secular populations.

Ma’ale Adumim: A Total TALI City

On September 1, 2005, the fifth public school in Ma’ale Adumim became a TALI school, making Ma’ale Adumim the first Israeli city to make TALI’s pluralistic Jewish studies program available to its entire mamlachti (secular) public school system.

TALI to Enter Special Education Schools

In September 2005, TALI will begin adapting its curriculum to the Ahava Residential Village near Haifa. The institution is home to 200 children (grades 1-12) who come from unstable homes and by court order have been placed with foster families at the residence. The school will receive a TALI pedagogical counselor, and a TALI school rabbi will provide spiritual education and guidance. The special education school is

- ▶ 3 new TALI textbooks were published: *My People, My Land in the Weekly Torah Portion*, 5th grade; *The Weekly Torah Portion in the Family*, 2nd grade; *Friends Across the Ocean*, grades 5-7
- ▶ A total of 11 TALI textbooks have been published, with the curriculum department currently involved in nine new projects. The series of five Torah Weekly Portion Textbooks for elementary grades will be completed in the autumn of 2005
- ▶ 14 TALI rabbis taught/worked in twenty TALI schools on a regular basis. Rabbis taught or led:
 - ▶ 283 workshops to pupils on prayer
 - ▶ school community Tu B’shvat Seders, Megilla readings and group Bat Mitzvah celebrations
 - ▶ parent-teacher Bet Midrash programs in six schools
 - ▶ “mini-series” of learning workshops in 5 schools and 22 kindergartens
- ▶ 43 “Rosh Hodesh Tunes” (*Niggunei Rosh Hodesh*) workshops were conducted for children and parents in TALI pre-schools and early elementary grades
- ▶ 55 TALI principals and lead staff (three classes) learned at the Schechter Institute as part of the Leadership Development Program, comprising a full day of classes once a week
- ▶ A total of 104 principals and lead staff have completed the Leadership Development program since its inception in 2001, with 54 of the TALI educators, more than half, going on for an M.A. degree at Schechter
- ▶ 21,000 monthly “hits” were recorded for the online TALI Torah Portion of the Week, representing a 200% jump in web viewers of TALI materials

THURSDAYS

24 | 7

FRIDAYS

24 | 7

SHABBAT

24 | 7



Bat-Elah Birenbaum teaches “Rosh Hodesh Tunes” to teachers from TALI schools in Pisgat Ze’ev



Parent-Child Workshop at Retanim School, Ashdod



the TALI Education Fund and the Schechter Institute will begin working in Fall 2005. The new syllabus, combined with the Ministry of Education Set of Directives that were published in 2003, will guide the expansion of TALI at the secondary school level.

TALI Evaluation

The TALI Education Fund has always relied on feedback from its schools consisting of questionnaires and formal discussions with principals and teachers, as the basis for program evaluation. It was decided this past year that sustaining and expanding TALI's educational services at the highest level requires that it turn to outside evaluators as well.

Two doctoral researchers under the guidance of Prof. Hanan Alexander, Dean of Haifa University's School of Education, examined teacher training programs, pedagogical counseling, and textbook development at the TALI Education Fund. The study is already assisting the TALI staff in better coordinating and improving the level of educational services provided to its schools.

Dr. Haim Amstel, in cooperation with *Shatil*, has designed a long-term study of TALI education, which will be implemented beginning in the fall of 2005. Throughout 2004-05, focus groups consisting of TALI constituents (teachers, parents, principals, pupils, municipalities, and funders) met to define the parameters of the study.

Translation of TALI textbooks for North America

Tolerance in the Mishnah, a TALI textbook published in 2004 for 4th graders, is now available in an easy Hebrew version.

part of a network of 60 similar institutions around Israel. A pilot project for five such schools is now being planned.

TALI Goes Virtual

TALI's recent partnership with *Snunit*, Israel's largest educational portal, has resulted in a substantial increase in exposure to and use of its curricular materials. From February 2005, when the TALI Weekly Torah Portion Book was uploaded onto *Snunit's* Galim website for elementary schools, visits to the TALI website, which is linked to Galim,

climbed to more than 20,000 hits a month - a full 200% jump in visits. The goal is to put all TALI textbooks online.

TALI Core Curriculum to Extend to High School Level

Following the success of the new TALI grade 1-6 curriculum introduced in Fall 2004, TALI has been asked to prepare, together with the Ministry of Education, a core curriculum for grades 7-12. A committee comprised of professional teams from the Ministry of Education,

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SUNDAYS

24/7 MONDAYS

24/7 TUESDAYS

24/7 WEDNESDAYS

24/7



TALI Rabbi Hagit Sabag with students of the Neve Dekalim School, Ashkelon



Over 700 teachers participated in TALI training workshops during the 2004-05 school year



Bat Mitzvah Ceremony for 6th grade girls of the TALI Alonim School in Pardes Hannah

It was published in September 2005 for pilot use in Toronto Jewish day schools.

Friends Across the Ocean (Chaverim Mei'eiver Layam), the first Israeli textbook on Jewish Peoplehood, was published by the TALI Education Fund in the Fall of 2004, and was used on a pilot basis in six TALI schools. Conveying values of *klal Yisrael* and introducing pupils to Jewish communities around the world, the book's educational value and potential use in Jewish Day schools around the world became evident. The textbook is now being translated into simple Hebrew and will be published in the summer of 2006. TALI workshops for Diaspora teachers will be offered to introduce the material to educators.

TALI Publications
Reach the General Population

The TALI Grade 1-6 Curriculum, released in September 2004, was sent to all 900 State (secular) public elementary schools. Any school wishing to use TALI materials may do so and several schools have ordered TALI textbooks, including a school in Canada. Six new TALI textbooks are scheduled for publication in 2005-06:

- ▶ *Man and God in the Weekly Portion* – 6th grade
- ▶ *Bible Stories for Young Children* – Kindergarten and 1st grade
- ▶ *Holidays and Festivals* – (1st book in a series for elementary grades similar to Weekly Torah Portion books)
- ▶ *To Give with All Your Heart* – a curriculum for 9th graders on organ donations, developed in partnership with ADI (the Israeli association for organ donations)
- ▶ *Ceremony and Symbol in Jewish Culture* – An electronic resource on the *Snunit* internet portal

▶ *Seeing the Voices* – A web resource to appear soon on *Snunit*, employing visual art and music for teaching the Book of Exodus, intended for 8th grade pupils and teachers

TALI Pre-Schools Adorned with Pinot Kodesh (“Children’s Ark Corner”)

Three TALI pre-schools in Hadera, Rosh Ha'ayin and Ashkelon now celebrate special Friday Kabbalat Shabbat services in their newly installed “Children’s Ark Corner.” The innovative niche houses a children's ark for the Torah (Aron Kodesh) with two children’s Torah scrolls, shelves which hold special ceremonial objects for the holidays and space for other learning aides. Additional pre-schools are in line to receive *Pinot Kodesh* in the coming year.



New TALI textbooks for 2004-05

Experiencing Judaism through Music

Rosh Hodesh Tunes (*Niggunei Rosh Hodesh*), was first introduced in 2003-04 as a pilot project to teach prayers through music to pre-schoolers and their parents. Due to its tremendous popularity and growing demand, TEF produced a CD featuring a selection of prayers and a guide to enable TALI teachers to prepare and conduct ceremonies on their own. A CD and workbook on Kabbalat Shabbat is also planned for older children in elementary schools.

Conservative synagogue, and songs and study conducted in a warm and bonding environment. An additional Shabbat retreat was held in Zichron Ya'acov in March 2005 for an entire TALI school population including parents, children and teachers. Extremely positive feedback has prompted TALI staff to look into expanding the program for 2005-06.

TALI Shabbat Retreats: New Way to Share Jewish Experience

During 2004-05, teachers and counseling staff of three TALI schools participated in Shabbat retreats facilitated by TALI rabbis. The weekend allowed the teachers to come together in an experiential expression of Shabbat through prayers at a local

TALI Parental Leadership Program

Developing parental leadership will strengthen the whole TALI network, bring additional resources to TALI schools, and promote the idea of reinforced Jewish studies throughout the educational system. In 2005-06, TALI will initiate a program of leadership training, stressing organizational skills, advocacy, and Jewish enrichment.



A “Pinat Shorashim” Seminar at Kibbutz Gezer



TALI Rabbi Gustavo Surazki leads TALI pre-schoolers in Ashkelon to their new *Pinot Kodesh*



Morning prayers take place at the majority of TALI schools around the country