

List of Sabbatical Recipients*

2009/10

Assia Istoshina A journalist and group facilitator. Working for RTVI, an international Russian-language television network, as host and editor of the TV program on the weekly Torah portion (commentary based on Jewish sources and Russian and world literature) that presents a feminist perspective on the Bible. Editor and host of the daily interview program *One on One*, which analyzes current events and airs in-depth interviews with people contributing to Israeli society through their activity. She is a co-founder and active member of FORA, a feminist organization of Russian-speaking women

Dr. Roni Megidov trains Bible teachers at the Shalom Hartman Institute and in the Revivim program at the Hebrew University, teaches in-service teachers' courses, and writes curriculum units for Bible studies.

Rabbi Avishai Schreiber is a teacher of Talmud and hasidism at Yeshivat Siach Yitzhak. He runs the "Café Midrash" project, which teaches Judaism in several community centers in Israel, and is the coordinator of a weekly study program at the Ein Kerem community center.

2008/09

Mr. Ari Elon (six-month Sabbatical) studies and teaches at the secular yeshiva in Tel Aviv, at the BINA seminar in Eyal, and at the Hartman Institute in Jerusalem; author of several books based on Jewish sources.

Mrs. Orly Kenneth, initiator and founder of "Beit Tefilah Yisraeli" (The Israeli Prayer House) at Gan-Yavneh, and of the countrywide network of Israeli *Batei Tefilah and Kehilla*; she is currently engaged in developing community models of Jewish renewal based on linking between Judaism and social responsibility.

Mr. Yehuda Maimaran: director of the Morasha network, funded by AVI CHAI.

Mr. Shai Zarhi (six-month Sabbatical), member of Kibbutz Genigar; teacher of literature, Hebrew poetry, and Jewish thought; founder and co-director of Tehuda (funded by AVI CHAI); one of the founders of Kehillat "Nigoon Ha'Lev" (in the Jezreal Valley) and leading its prayer renewal; one of the founders of the "Oranim Midrasha for Jewish Renewal"; editor of a Pesach Haggadah and another book on life rituals (published by Yedioth Achronot).

Dr. Gili Zivan, director of the Yaacov Herzog Center for Jewish Studies at Ein Tzurim, founded by the religious kibbutz movement; specializes in bible, Jewish philosophy, and gender and Judaism issues; member of Kibbutz Sa'ad.

2007/08

Mr. Shai Bental, member of Kibbutz Mashabei Sadeh; human resources manager; doctoral student in the Department of Jewish Thought at Ben-Gurion University; director, senior facilitator, and developer of the Havruta program in the Bamidbar beit midrash in Yeroham.

Mr. Udi Givon, Director of Marom Olami -the world conservative young adults organization .

Mrs. Elonora Mitnizki, initiator, founder, and director of the Ash-Dod Community, which works on revitalizing pluralistic Jewish-Israeli identity among Ashdod residents originally from the former Soviet Union; speaker and group facilitator specializing in Jewish issues; actress and singer in the Elya theater for Jewish studies.

Mr. Yigal Shrim, community-center director; facilitator and developer of programming for youth and special-needs populations in the Israel Association of Community Centers; and director of youth delegations to Poland.

2006/07

Mr. Zvika Goldberg , Journalist and News-Editor. Currently head of the news department at Galei Tzahal (Israel army radio).

Mrs. Ilana Levi-Zrihen, Member of the Board of Mitzpeh Hilla -a settlement in the North and head of " Limud Galil"—a voluntary organization that sets up and oversees study groups on Judaism for diverse populations .

Mrs. Maki Oshero-Gerson, Head of the Education Department of the Progressive (Reform) Movement in Israel. Initiates educational involvement of the Reform Movement in State Schools all over the country.

Rabbi Michael Rotenberg, Teacher at the Hesder Yeshiva at Karnei Shomron. Lecturer -"Chassidoot" and Bible in Cooleges, Batei Midrash for teachers and other institutes, (formerly a member of "Zehut," a group publishing a magazine "Values behind the News", a coach and trained facilitator.

2005/06

Mrs. Na'ama Azulai , long-time employee at the Association of Community Centers, where she held various fields of management and administration. . During the past several years she has acted as facilitator for directors and staff of community centers throughout Israel, in the field of Jewish renewal.

Mr. Eliaz Cohen, poet, one of the founders of Mashiv Haruach, a journal for Israeli Jewish poetry.

Mrs. Pnina Shor , in charge of implementation of Hartman's program for Jewish renewal in state schools, and supervisor of student-teachers at Revivim.

2004/05

Mr. David (Dudi) Natan, director and one of the initiators and founders of Collot in the Negev; which is active throughout the Negev, promoting Jewish renewal, cultural integration of immigrants, and social change.

Dr.. Chana Kehat, founder and chair of the Religious Women's Forum (Kolech), which promotes the status of religious women, engages in mediation, and fosters the deepening of discourse between secular and religious women; an educator and researcher.

Ms. Devorah Nov, founder and director of Sihara, a creative beit midrash in Bat Ayin.

2003/04

Dr. Leah Mazor, Bible instructor at the Hebrew University and elsewhere; involved in Biblical scholarship projects in the Israeli education system, and in development of the new Israeli Bible curriculum.

Ms. Hava Pinchas-Cohen, founder and editor of the Jewish cultural and art journal Dimui; poet, and literature and art teacher.

Mr. Eran Baruch, educational director of the Bina Center for Jewish Identity and Hebrew Culture at the Efal Seminar Center.

Mr. Menachem Yaglom, editor-in-chief for the Gishrei Tarbut publishing house; instructor at the Melton Center; author, editor, and translator from Hebrew to Russian and vice-versa.

2002/03

Ms. Osnat Elnatan, co-founder and teacher in the community beit midrash in Beit Shemesh.

Ms. Ruchama Weiss-Goldman, Talmud teacher, and director of the Beit Shmuel beit midrash.

Rabbi Harel Gordin, teacher in the hesder yeshiva in Petah Tikva; neighborhood rabbi in West Herzliya; founder of Asufot, the Herzliya Forum for Jewish Thought

Mr. Mordechai (Mordy) Stein, leading staff member at Shitim—the Kibbutz Holiday Institute, Beit Hashita; teacher at the Kibbutz Hadati yeshiva in Ma'ale Gilboa.

2001/02

Ms. Sarah Friedland, teacher at Matan and Beit Morasha; coordinator of an evening beit midrash at Elul.

Mr. Shlomi Perlmutter, national coordinator of learning communities, Elul beit midrash.

Mr. Edmond Hasin, executive director of Heled Educational Programs.

Ms. Tamar Biton, founder and co-director of Bamidbar, a creative beit midrash in Yeruham.

2000/01

Ms. Tzippi Elbaz, coordinator of educational programs for the Jerusalem Education Administration.

Ms. Debby Golan, founder and coordinator of the Bamidbar community beit midrash in Yeruham.

Rabbi Chashy Friedman, coordinator of Jewish thought and contemporary Jewish identity, Van Leer Jerusalem Institute.

* The titles and places of work stated here are accurate as of the year of acceptance into the AVI CHAI sabbatical program.