



**THE RABBI REUVEN GRODNER
BEIT MIDRASH PROGRAM
AT THE HEBREW UNIVERSITY**

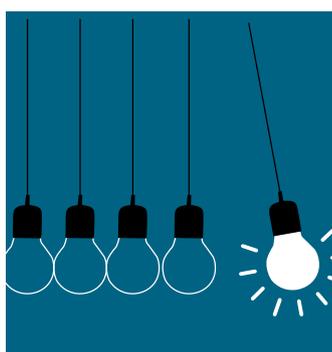
Hillel
ISRAEL

The RRG Beit Midrash is dedicated to the memory of Dr. Roberta Barkan, ז"ל

IMPACT REPORT 2017

The Rabbi Reuven Grodner (RRG) Beit Midrash Program strengthens university students' Jewish identity through open, interactive, community-based Jewish educational programming and experiences.

Our inspiring activities attract a large number of North American overseas students studying at the Hebrew University from all Jewish backgrounds and denominations, as well as a select group of Israeli Hebrew University students with diverse religious identities.



80+
unique programs offered this past year

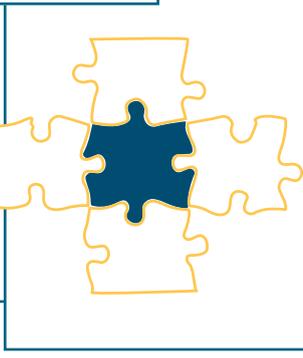
50+ text-based Jewish educational programs offered



200+ total student participants



Nearly **80%** of overseas undergraduates participated in an RRG Beit Midrash program during their time at the Hebrew University



The RRG Beit Midrash partnered with **8** on and off-campus educational institutions

Dear Friends of the RRG Beit Midrash,

There is a famous question discussed in the Talmud: which is more important, learning or action?

Maimonides codifies his response in his famous discussion on the laws of learning Torah: "...in every place, one finds that study takes precedence over deed, for study brings about deed, however, deed does not bring about study."

One could ask the following questions of Maimonides: if a person is involved in an act of charity or kindness, what does it matter if he or she studied about it first? Isn't the act itself of central significance? What does the study add?

Though the acts might look the same on the outside, a dollar donated altruistically is not the same act as a dollar donated to gain status in the eyes of others.

Study gives context to the action. It teaches us why we should act.

For the last 32 years, the RRG Beit Midrash has offered an open framework for students of all backgrounds to grapple with the whys of life's most important questions through the lens of the Jewish tradition.

Without fail, a new and eager group of student leaders arrives every semester. Some have started to articulate questions, and some simply don't know how to ask. Yet so many of them, despite their diverse backgrounds, embrace the opportunity to delve into these questions as a part of our learning community. They put their phones in their pockets and log off Facebook in order to engage in real face-to-face Jewish interactions.

Whether it's through our alumni who share their RRG Beit Midrash experiences back on their home campuses, or through the diverse Israeli Hebrew University students who join our programming, we continue to see that Jewish education awakens more Jewish actions.

In the coming year and beyond, we pray that our students' commitment to learning will create more action, both in their own hearts and in the hearts of the Jewish people. For those who have supported us in the past, our success is your success. We thank you for allowing us to share our love of the Jewish tradition with such an incredible group of young men and women leaders.

And thanks to your continued partnership in the coming year, we look forward to inspiring many more students in the future.

Sincerely,
Rabbi Reuven Grodner

Rabbi Yonatan Udren



THE MONDAY NIGHT BEIT MIDRASH

Our core program offers students from diverse backgrounds the opportunity to address their questions about the Jewish tradition through paired learning and dynamic discussion groups.



"The RRG Beit Midrash gave me the opportunity to learn in an exceptionally thought-provoking environment with a remarkable group of passionate, educated people."

- Ilana Sandberg, Columbia University

100+ total participants



LUNCH N' LEARN

Our weekly discussion group over pizza lunch touched on diverse and timely topics, such as:

How Does the Torah Relate to Refugees?

The Purpose of Prayer

Jewish Models of Environmental Sustainability.

"Every week was an amazing opportunity to engage in deep, intellectual conversations about relevant Jewish topics with a truly diverse group."

**-Alex Brodsky,
University of Oklahoma**

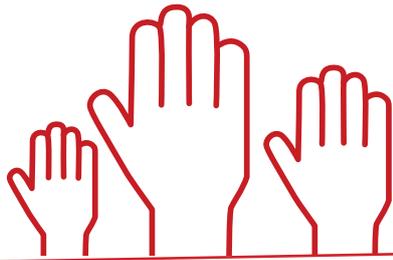


60+ students attended at least one of our weekly Lunch N' Learn programs



HOLIDAY PROGRAMS

100+ unique total participants at our holiday programs



We offered four seriously fun pre-holiday experiences for the Beit Midrash community with delicious food, incredible music, and moving insights.

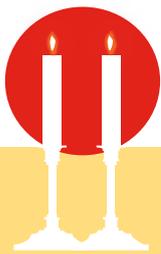


"The Shavuot Learn-A-Thon was a fantastic finale to semester. The event was engaging and exciting, and all the students were so eager to learn and to share their insights with the group."

- Joelle Chandler, York University



We offered eight transformational Shabbat experiences to students of all backgrounds and denominations, including six student-run on-campus programs, and two programs in the nearby community of Beit El.



"I loved hosting a Shabbat meal on campus with the RRG Beit Midrash. They took care of all the details, and in the end I did so little and we all got so much."

- Elan Kainen, Davidson College

80+ students participated in one of our eight Shabbat programs



LECTURES

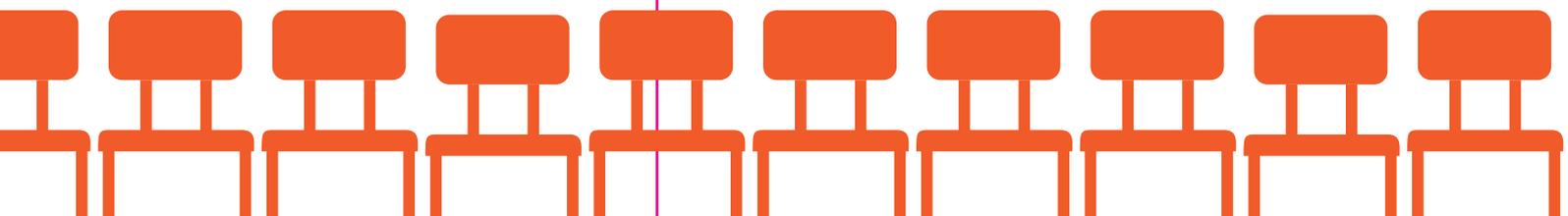
We offered lectures from top leaders in the IDF and the world of Israeli High-Tech, including: “The Story Behind the Security Fence” given by Colonel Dan Tirze, the former head of the IDF’s Security Fence Planning Committee; “Women Olim Entrepreneur Panel” with Educational Entrepreneur Nicky Newfield from Jewish Interactive and Internet Marketing Entrepreneur Naomi Elbinger from Yes Potential.

“The speakers from the Women Olim Entrepreneur Panel really inspired me; their willpower and courage to follow their dreams gave me strength to continue to follow mine.”

**- Mallory Friedman,
University of the Arts,
Philadelphia**



100+ participants
attended our guest lectures





Rav Yonatan visits Liza Bernstein and Rebecca Silver at the University of Pennsylvania Hillel.

Through the Campus Beit Midrash Initiative (CBMI), RRG Beit Midrash alumni are creating Jewish textual learning opportunities at their home campuses based on our model.

It was amazing to see people from all different backgrounds coming together and delving into Jewish texts, and I'm excited to see how Shoresh will continue to flourish in coming years.

-Rebecca Silver, Shoresh Learning Community Co-Founder, University of Pennsylvania



"Having been lucky enough to spend four months participating in the RRG Beit Midrash, the CBMI has been a meaningful way to for me to share the profound insights I learned about my Judaism while in Israel."

-Ari Shapiro, Georgetown University

In its
2nd
year...

... the CBMI trained
10 students ...



... from **7** campuses
across North America



Meaningful interactions between overseas students and their Israeli Hebrew University counterparts are few and far between. Last year we created Keshet, which offers Israeli and overseas Hebrew University students the opportunity to engage each other through Torah learning, joint Shabbat programming, and discussions about Jewish identity and the State of Israel.



40+ Israeli Hebrew University student participants

"The program offered Israeli students like me an opportunity to engage with overseas students in a really meaningful way. It was fascinating to discuss Jewish identity and explore texts with such a diverse group of students."

- Yoni Alon, Hebrew University



RRG Beit Midrash Dedication and Donation Information

Please partner with the Rabbi Reuven Grodner Beit Midrash at the Hebrew University Hillel with a **tax-deductible** US dollar, Canadian dollar, or Israeli shekel contribution. All dedications can be made in honor of or in memory of a loved one. We thank you for your support!

SCHOLARS' CIRCLE	SUPPORT	SPONSORSHIPS	SUPPORT
Founder*	\$100,000	Semester Sponsorship	\$ 10,000
Benefactor	\$ 30,000	CBMI Campus Sponsorship	\$ 7,500
Patron	\$ 18,000	Shabbat Retreat	\$ 5,000
*Names to appear on all booklets, posters, publicity, etc., in perpetuity.		Student for a year	\$ 3,600
		Student for a semester	\$ 1,500
		Holiday celebration	\$ 1,000
		Beit Midrash Learning	\$ 500
		Lecture	\$ 360
		Beit Midrash dinner	\$ 250
		Lunch N'Learn	\$ 118

All gifts at above levels can be designated "In Honor of" or "In Memory of".

Online Donations

Secure anonymous online tax deductible credit card donations for American dollars only can be made at: <http://www.rrgbeitmidrash.org/donate.html>

For Canadian Dollar or Israeli Shekel credit card donations, please contact us at info@rrgbeitmidrash.org for instructions.

Check Donations

American Dollar, Canadian Dollar, and Israeli Shekel donations can also be made by check.

US Dollar checks should be made payable to: Hillel: the Foundation for Jewish Campus Life.

Israeli Shekel checks should be made payable to: הלל ישראל בע"מ (חל"צ).

Canadian Dollar checks should be made payable to: Hillel Ontario.

Please place a memo at the bottom of all checks to read: RRG Beit Midrash.

All checks should be mailed to:
Hillel Israel
Attn: RRG Beit Midrash
The Hebrew University of Jerusalem
Mt. Scopus, Jerusalem, Israel



**THE RABBI REUVEN GRODNER
BEIT MIDRASH PROGRAM
AT THE HEBREW UNIVERSITY**

Hillel
ISRAEL



CONTACT US!

Hillel Israel

ATTN. RRG Beit Midrash

The Hebrew University of Jerusalem

Mt. Scopus, Jerusalem, Israel

 www.RRGBeitMidrash.org

 info@rrgbeitmidrash.org

 RRG Beit Midrash

 +972-2-581-7714