

Dear Friends, Supporters and Partners!

The restoration of the Schechter Center for Jewish Culture in Neve Zedek will soon commence. *Schechter Neve Zedek News* will provide you with every other month project updates. We shall be pleased to receive questions and feedback.

Eighteen months ago, the Schechter Institute of Jewish Studies, in cooperation with Kehillat Sinai, Midreshet Iyun and the Masorti Movement, announced plans to establish a Center for Jewish Culture in Neve Zedek, which will serve as a focal point for Jewish spiritual renewal in Tel Aviv. The Center will be located in a 2-story historic Templar building located on the corner of Cheloush and Eilat Streets, which in the early part of the 20th century was transformed into Café Lorenz. On the adjoining lot, a TALI Early Childhood Building with two pre-school classrooms will be built.

This partnership will allow **Rabbi Roberto Arbib**, who established Midreshet Iyun together with his Kehillat Sinai Congregation, to expand the innovative educational and religious/spiritual programs, which until now have been held in a small rented facility on 88 Bograshov Street. This Center will bring the educational activities of the Schechter Institute of Jewish Studies to the residents of Tel Aviv, affording them positive exposure to Jewish sources and spirituality.

The Capital Campaign

To date, \$2.9 million has been raised out of a total of \$4 million that is needed to complete the project. This sum includes construction of the new education building. We are grateful to those who have contributed and will do so in the future in order to implement the dream of Neve Zedek.

Milestones

- **June 2007**
Contract signed with the Masorti Movement transferring responsibility for Neve Zedek. Agreement signed providing lead gift for center.
- **January 2008**
Municipal Planning Authority approved the changes in building plans.
- **June 2008**
Detailed building plans (all internal systems) completed.
- **July 2008**
Requests for building permits, including all internal systems, submitted to municipalities.
- **Early February 2009**
Tender for construction contract on building renovation to be issued.
- **March 2009**
Main construction contractor will be chosen and contract signed.
- **May 2009**
Construction to begin with tentative completion date set for March 2010.
- **Pesach 2010**
Opening of Schechter Center for Jewish Culture in Neve Zedek.



Schechter Center for Jewish Culture in Neve Zedek - Architect's Rendition

Events in Israel

In December 2008, over 100 people attended study evenings at private homes in Jaffa, Neve Zedek and Savion, led by Rabbi Roberto Arbib and Prof. David Golinkin. For many people, this Torah study session was their first opportunity to become acquainted with the Schechter Institute and its plans for the Neve Zedek Center. The study groups will meet once monthly. Additional groups will be established in Jerusalem, Ramat Aviv and Haifa.

An "Evening in the Sukka" took place on the building site during Succot. The program included a presentation of the interior design of the synagogue, lectures, an exciting performance by Israeli singer David Broza, and the presentation to donors of an original woodcut created by artist Ofer Lalush of Jaffa. A Founders Society was established which generously contributed to furnishing the Center's synagogue. The event raised \$100,000 and we are very grateful to our generous donors who share in our worldview of Masorti Judaism.

A "Suk-kafe" was held in the site's courtyard for members of Kehillat Sinai and neighbors from a residential tower bordering the Schechter Center site. The plan of the Center was presented and participants were offered the opportunity to donate a chair for the synagogue.

Members of Los Angeles's Temple Beth Am, led by Rabbi Joel Rembaum, were guests of honor at a ribbon-cutting ceremony to mark the future site of the Schechter Center for Jewish Culture in Neve Zedek, attended by Tel Aviv Deputy Mayor Yael Dayan. Dramatic sketches re-enacted by members of the Midreshet Iyun Creative Bet Midrash Project brought the rich history of the former Lorenz House to life.

Thank you for your essential support. We look forward to sharing more Schechter Neve Zedek news in the future.

Prof. David Golinkin

Rabbi Roberto Arbib

Captions:

1. Chanukah candlelighting at a study evening of "Light and Renewal" in the Jaffa home of David and Karen Kremmerman, December 2008.
2. Singer David Broza performs at a Sukkot fundraising event at the Neve Zedek site, October 2008.
3. "In the Neve Zedek Sukka" with Rabbi Roberto Arbib and David Broza.
4. Ribbon-cutting Ceremony in the courtyard of the future Schechter Center for Jewish Culture in Neve Zedek with members of Temple Beth Am, Los Angeles, December 2007. (From left): Prof. David Golinkin, President, Schechter Institute; Mr. Larry Miller, Temple Beth Am; the Hon. Yael Dayan, Dep. Mayor of Tel Aviv; Rabbi Joel Rembaum, Temple Beth Am; Mr. Moshe Cohen, former Chair, Masorti Movement.



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