

The Miracles of the Teachers Institute

This year, The Jewish Theological Seminary (JTS) celebrates the 100th anniversary of the founding of Teachers Institute (TI)—and its legacy to JTS, academia, and the Jewish people. Light-years ahead of its time, the institute opened in 1909 to both men and women, with women forming the majority of its students. The magic of TI's learning atmosphere was composed of three elements carefully blended and effectively transmitted by faculty to students: Hebrew as a language of instruction, with mostly non-native speakers on either side of the desk; twentieth-century scholarship using critical tools; and profound respect for the sanctity and potential impact of Jewish texts.

This year's centennial inspires the commemoration of and reflection on the twenty-first century innovations in Jewish life that had their roots in the institute's precedent-setting programs. The legacies of the Teachers Institute live on as JTS continues to shape American Jewish culture through its superior schools of higher education, congregational school programs, Conservative Movement affiliations, and the arts.

The Teachers Institute created a hot-house environment that inspired new programs, ideas, and institutions that have been central to the flourishing of American Jewish life, including:

- Seminary College of Jewish Studies, which together with TI became the [Albert A. List College of Jewish Studies](#)
- [William Davidson Graduate School of Jewish Education](#)
- The [Rebecca and Israel Ivry Prozdor High School](#) supplementary program
- The [Jewish Gender and Women's Studies Program](#)
- The modern congregational school education system
- A passion for cultural Zionism, lay leadership, and Jewish feminism
- Arts, music, and drama groups that enriched formal Jewish educational settings
- Advanced Jewish education for women
- [Ramah Camps](#)

The academic year 2009–2010 is being marked by various programs celebrating the anniversary, denoting JTS as the center for Jewish education—yesterday, today, and tomorrow.

Alumni are invited to attend all of the programs and to participate in this yearlong salute. You will want to make a special note on your calendar for **March 7, 2010**, as we explore some of the aforementioned legacies with leaders in the field (see below).

For more information and to see the calendar of events, visit the [Teachers Institute](#)

[website](#). To join the advisory committee, contact [Melissa Friedman](#), director of the Diane and Howard Wohl Office of Alumni Affairs of JTS.

**2009–2010 Teachers Institute Anniversary
Daylong Symposium**

March 7, 2010

**Cosponsored by The Davidson School, List College,
and the Wohl Office of Alumni Affairs**

- Double Degree Breakfast for Alumnae—celebrating the thirtieth anniversary of the Double Degree Program between JTS and Barnard College

Followed by sessions covering a variety of topics, including:

- A discussion with JTS [Chancellor Arnold M. Eisen](#) and [Barnard College President Deborah L. Spar](#)
- “Camp Ramah” with [Dr. Joseph Reimer](#), [Rabbi Mitchell Cohen](#), and [Dr. Seymour \(Epi\) Epstein](#)—this session honors the memory of Rabbi Joseph Lukinsky (z”l)
- “Hebrew at the Heart” with [Dr. Shuly Rubin Schwartz](#) and [Nessa Rapoport](#)
- “Women and Jewish Education” with [Dr. Carol Ingall](#)

Keynote lecture by Rabbi Harold Kushner (SC '55; RS '60 and '72)

The Teachers Institute 100th Anniversary website includes photos. If you have pictures to share or are interested in becoming involved, please email [Melissa Friedman](#).

JTS and the Wohl Office of Alumni Affairs wish you a very happy holiday and new year.

[Hag sameah Hanukkah!](#)

Additional Reasons To Mark Your Calendar . . .

JTS to Host Reception at [Association for Jewish Studies \(AJS\) Conference](#)

Monday, December 21, 2009
9:30–10:30 p.m.

Hyatt Regency Century Plaza, Los Angeles, California

All alumni who attend the conference are welcome to reconnect with one another,

faculty, and current students who are presenting at this year's AJS conference. Light reception hosted by the [Wohl Office of Alumni Affairs](#); JTS will be represented by [Dr. Stephen Garfinkel](#), dean of [The Graduate School](#) of JTS. Please let [Melissa Friedman](#) know if you plan to attend.

Should you arrive a day early to the AJS Conference . . .

On Sunday, December 20, at 9:30 a.m.:

- JTS professor of Bible [Dr. Benjamin Sommer](#) will accept the 2009 Jordan Schnitzer Book Award in the area of Biblical Studies, Rabbinics, and Archaeology for his new book, [The Bodies of God and the World of Ancient Israel](#).
- Theodore R. Racoosin Chair of Rabbinic Literature, [Dr. Richard Kalmin](#) of JTS will be honored for his new book, [Jewish Babylonia between Persia and Roman Palestine](#), which has been chosen as a 2009 Jordan Schnitzer Notable Selection in the area of Biblical Studies, Rabbinics, and Archaeology.
- The new book by JTS Professor of Hebrew [Dr. Edna Nahshon](#), [From the Ghetto to the Melting Pot: Israel Zangwill's Jewish Plays](#), will also be honored as a 2009 Jordan Schnitzer Notable Selection in the area of Jews and the Arts.

[Sowing the Seeds of Character: The Moral Education of Adolescents in Public and Private](#)

Alumni Book Release Party

Monday, February 8, 2010

JTS celebrates the release of Judd Kruger Levingston's (RS '93, DS '02, GS '02) new book.