

The
**Center for Modern Torah
 Leadership**

Our mission is to model and foster a vision of fully committed halakhic Judaism that

EMBRACES the intellectual and moral challenges of modernity as spiritual opportunities,

RECOGNIZES that ideas and rhetoric have consequences, and takes responsibility for the societal implications of its interpretations of Torah,

UNDERSTANDS that the real-world effects of Torah are mediated by the character of Torah leaders, and that self-knowledge is therefore essential for Torah leadership, and

TAKES the ultimate significance of all human beings as *tzelem Elokim* as a fundamental Torah principle.



RABBI ARYEH KLAPPER

Founding Director / Rosh Beit Midrash

RABBI ARYEH KLAPPER is Dean of the Center for Modern Torah Leadership and Rosh Beit Midrash of its Summer Beit Midrash Program, Instructor of Rabbinics and Medical Ethics at Gann Academy, and a member of the Boston Beit Din. Rabbi Klapper previously served as Orthodox Adviser and Associate Director for Education at Harvard Hillel and as Talmud Curriculum Chair at Maimonides High School. He has published articles about contemporary halakhah in numerous academic journals including *Tradition*, *Meorot*, *Dinei Yisrael*, and *Beit Yitzchak*. He is a popular lecturer who is consulted internationally on issues of Jewish law. His work is cited regularly by both academic and traditional scholars.



- Must be **proficient in reading rabbinic texts**
- Display **talent for leadership** positions in the Jewish community
- Be **fully committed to halakhah**.

The **SUMMER BEIT MIDRASH** provides **food & housing** for all Fellows. A **limited number of stipends** are available on the basis of need and ability.

“Developing effective and courageous Orthodox leaders committed to actively participating in, learning from, and challenging contemporary Jewish and non-Jewish culture.”



*The theme that sticks out in my mind is **responsibility for what Torah will look like in the future**. This idea is particularly important for Modern Orthodox Jews who are committed to Talmud Torah and halakhah but do not see their core values consistently represented in Torah as it is taught today.*

Michael Grunfeld, Harvard College



SUMMER BEIT MIDRASH

INVITES

**10-12 Outstanding Men & Women
 to join us next summer for
 six intensive, exhilarating weeks
 learning about Halakhah**



TENTATIVE DATES

July 6 – August 10, 2009

14 Tammuz – 20 Menachem Av 5769

at

Young Israel of Sharon, MA



תּוֹרָה וְאֲחֵרִיּוֹת

“Taking Responsibility for Torah”

A TYPICAL DAY AT SBM



9 am – 12 noon Chavruta preparation for shiur given by Rosh Beit Midrash, Rabbi Klapper.

12:15 – 1:00 pm Lunch. Participants enjoy a light meal while debating the day's breaking Jewish and halakhic issues.

1:00 – 2:30 pm Dynamic and interactive shiur with Rabbi Klapper.

2:30 – 6:00 pm Chevrotot and individual preparation. One-on-one teaching opportunities in the community.

6:30 pm Dinner. Participants relax over a hot meal with colleagues while discussing relevant topics from the day's shiur.

8:30 pm Community lectures by Rabbi Klapper / distinguished guest lecturers. Tutor community congregants.



Previously studied at the Summer Beit Midrash...

- * The Halakhic Credibility of Non-Observant Jews
- * DNA Evidence and Mamzerut
- * The Halakhic Status of Christianity
- * Leadership and Lifnei Iver in Pluralistic Settings

FROM OUR ALUMNI

SBM helped me think about God, Torah, and Judaism more sensitively and carefully. The discussions with other Fellows and Rabbi Klapper compelled me to deepen my emotional involvement and intellectual honesty ... SBM made me relate to Judaism with thought, courage and feeling. I was ... awestruck by Rabbi Klapper's concern for the future of Judaism and clear-eyed love for the Jewish people.

Ava Lieberman, Columbia University

WHY THE SUMMER BEIT MIDRASH?

SBM students learn to see themselves as producers rather than as consumers of Halakhah. They therefore learn to see themselves and their communities as responsible for the manifestation of the eternal Torah in the lives of their communities.

SBM develops leaders. Fellows put their study into practice by teaching and mentoring members of the community while regularly reflecting with Rabbi Klapper and their peers about the process of teaching Torah. SBM, which will enter its 13th year in 2009, has launched significant careers in Jewish education, the Rabbinate, and lay leadership.

SBM catalyzes personal growth through both its challenging formal academic program and its informal conversations and dialogues. Fellows continually engage Rabbi Klapper and their SBM peers in conversations about how what they are studying affects them personally and spiritually.

SBM develops community. Rabbi Klapper and The Center for Modern Torah Leadership maintain contact and support alumni in their ongoing spiritual growth and professional development. Many alumni attend CMTL's annual Rabbis/Educators conference on Halakhah where they renew old relationships and find a chevra with which they can have sophisticated, honest, and completely committed dialogue about the core issues of their professional and religious practice.

"Fellows can ask any questions while developing the tools with which to answer them."



SBM is singular in its successful combination of top level traditional study of rabbinic texts with complete openness to the critiques and insights of other methods, disciplines, and cultures.

SBM is unique its focus on halakhah as a functional legal and political system rather than as a collection of details.

SBM is special in its ability to engage the most difficult theological and ethical issues within halakhah in a strongly supportive and completely committed Orthodox environment.



SUMMER BEIT MIDRASH ALUMNI

are

EFFECTIVE

- ▶ Capable of making the language, values, and practices of Halakhic Judaism meaningful to all Jews, and
- ▶ Capable of making the values, practices and society of Halakhic Judaism react meaningfully to the challenges of modernity.

COURAGEOUS

- ▶ Willing to confront intellectual and moral challenges originating both within and without Torah, and
- ▶ Willing to implement Torah in the face of personal or communal opposition.



As halakhically observant Jews, we live our lives based on a legal discourse we don't really understand... This program brings the student right into the ongoing discussion, not just to listen, but ultimately - with the final project, writing one's own t'shuvah — to participate.

David Kasher, Senior Jewish Educator, Berkeley Hillel

Due to my learning at the Summer Beit Midrash, I developed a new appreciation of the process of Psak Halakha. I now understand that a posek needs to possess compatible values with the community that he serves in order for Halakha to be a spiritually meaningful system within Modern Orthodoxy.

Noah Cheses, RIETS-YU, Wexner Graduate Fellow