

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 University**



The Center for Modern Torah Leadership's

**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 5 – August 16, 2011

3 Tammuz – 16 Av 5771

at

Young Israel of Sharon, MA



**תּוֹרָה וְאֲחֵרִיּוֹת**

“Taking Responsibility for Torah”

## A TYPICAL DAY AT SBM



After a full morning of chevruta preparation for Rabbi Klapper's two-hour shiur each day, SBM fellows find their afternoons and evenings packed with opportunities to learn b'chevruta with Sharon community members. Rabbi Klapper also gives a public shiur to the Sharon community at large once a week, the sources for which the SBM fellows help attendees prepare.

Throughout the program, SBM offers guest lectures by an array of distinguished speakers, each addressing different aspects of the kollel's current topic. Past speakers include Rabbi Chaim Jachter, Rabbi Dov Linzer, Gary Rosenblatt of the Jewish Week, Rabbi Nati Helfgot, and Prof. Jeffrey Rosen of George Washington Law School, among many others. There are ample occasions for fellows to give shiurim over Shabbat in Sharon or in various neighboring communities, such as Newton and Portland, as well as special presentations on Sunday mornings around the area.



### Previously studied at the Summer Beit Midrash...

- \* A Halakhic Ethic of Investigative Journalism
- \* The Halakhic Credibility of Non-Observant Jews
- \* DNA Evidence and Mamzerut
- \* The Halakhic Status of Christianity

**This Summer: "Judaism and Art: Towards a Halakhic Evaluation of Beauty"**

## 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 15th year in 2011, 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 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.



*SBM has definitely enhanced my perspective on Jewish leadership, and not just what it is, but what it ought to be. The professional conference earlier in the month and the visit to the session of the Beit Din later on gave me an insight into the way Jewish communal leadership institutions function, fired my imagination as to how they might be more effective and important to Jewish life in the future, and inspired me to try to contribute to realizing that vision. SBM...led us all to imagine and re-imagine the role of Torah, halakha, and psak in the daily lives of Jews.*

**Yedidya Schwartz, Yale University**

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

**Noah Cheses, RIETS-YU, Wexner Graduate Fellow**