

THE CENTER FOR MODERN TORAH LEADERSHIP AWARDS 2009 SUMMER
BEIT MIDRASH FELLOWSHIPS

2009 SBM will focus on the theme "Toward a Jewish Ethic for Journalism"

The Center for Modern Torah Leadership, the intellectual catalyst of Modern Orthodoxy, is proud to introduce the Fellows for its 2009 Summer Beit Midrash. Fellows include men and women from leading universities, *yeshivot*, and seminaries with advanced textual skills and a passionate commitment to learning Torah in an environment that welcomes the moral challenges of modernity as spiritual opportunities and sees recognition of each human beings as a Divine Image as a fundamental assumption and *telos* of Torah study.

The Summer Beit Midrash is an intense and exhilarating learning program that allows Fellows to pursue compelling questions with intellectual rigor and ethical integrity in the framework of a warm and challenging Orthodox community, and to experience themselves as active contributors to the halakhic conversation. This year's seminar, our thirteenth, will center on the theme "Toward an Orthodox Ethic for Journalism." It will run from July 6 - August 10 at Young Israel of Sharon, 100 Ames Street.

SBM is headed by CMTL Dean Rabbi Aryeh Klapper, with an array of distinguished guest lecturers including Rabbi Howard Jachter, author of *Gray Matters Volumes 1-3* and a member of the Elizabeth Beit Din and of the RCA Halakhah Commission; Binyamin Appelbaum, reporter on national economic issues for the *Washington Post*, who, while at the *Charlotte Observer*, was among the first to spot the emerging foreclosure crisis; and Mark Jurkowitz, Associate Director of the Project for Excellence in Journalism, and former *Boston Globe* Ombudsman and Media Critic.

SBM Fellows will lead a variety of public learning opportunities during the seminar, including one-on-one study, thematic text-study groups, and formal classes. For more information, please contact Anne Sender at ModernTorahleadership@gmail.com. For more information about CMTL and its programs, as well as for many terrific articles and audio and video classes, please see www.torahleadership.org.



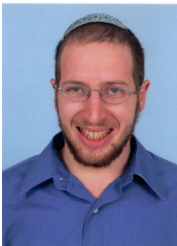
Jesse Abelman comes from Lexington by way of Jerusalem, Montreal, and New York, where he is currently a rabbinical student at Yeshiva University's Rabbi Isaac Elchanan Theological Seminary. This spring he finished his Master's degree in Talmud at the Bernard Revel Graduate School for Jewish Studies. He is looking forward to gaining deeper insight into the process of *psak Halakhah* and other meta-halakhic issues.



Tamara Frankel, from Toronto, Canada, is finishing her first year of teaching in a Jewish day school and beginning graduate school at York University in the fall. This summer, while honing her text skills, she also hopes to contribute the perspective of a young female Jewish educator to colleagues, comparing and evaluating the challenges faced and posed by different communities.



Avishai Gebler, from Sharon via Los Angeles and Jerusalem, is a senior at Columbia. He spent two years at Yeshivat Yesodei HaTorah, the second year as a *madrikh*, which gave him a taste of the teaching that he yearns to do in his professional career. He is looking forward to combining the experience with learning on a high level with communal teaching, engaging community members in a real and focused manner.



Rob Golder, originally from Stow, is a graduate of Swarthmore College and has attended Yeshivat Hamivtar and Yeshivat Shvilei HaTorah Kollel. He will be entering Revel Graduate School and Yeshivat Chovevei Torah (*semikhah* program) this fall. Rob is looking forward to incorporating secular wisdom into *shiurim* that he is preparing in a way that enhances the rigor and integrity of such Torah.



Hod Klein, from Teaneck, NJ, is a rising senior at Rutgers University, where he majors in Jewish Studies, philosophy and economics. He sees SBM's as an opportunity to develop strong friendships, broaden his scope of thought, and gain a deeper understanding of texts than is possible on a university campus. He believes that an environment where one's peers are constantly engaged in Torah thought enhances a person's knowledge and improves one's character traits, allowing for true *cheshbon hanefesh*.



Avi Miller, from Woodmere, NY, has attended Yeshivat Hakotel, and recently graduated from Princeton University with an AB in Philosophy and a certificate in Judaic Studies. This fall, he will begin studying at the Rabbi Isaac Elchanan Theological Seminary at Yeshiva University. By continuing his studies in *Halakhah* in the unique and innovative

fashion of SBM, he hopes to gain a greater appreciation for the dynamism (and limits) inherent in the halakhic process.



Michael Pershan is from Skokie, IL. After attending Yeshivat Shaalvim, he entered Harvard College, where he'll be finishing up his degree in philosophy this coming year. Michael currently serves as Chair of the Orthodox Minyan at Harvard Hillel, where he attended many of CMTL's campus programs. He looks forward to being challenged at SBM and to building real relationships with SBM's host communities.



Rivky Stern is from Teaneck, NJ. After graduating from Frisch High School, she attended Midreshet Harova for two years, and is now entering her junior year at Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore, where she is studying history and African Studies. She is looking forward to revisiting the *Beit Midrash* life in an environment that matches the intellectual stimulation of her university experience.



Aron Wolgel graduated from Brandeis in 2005. Aron has completed an M.A. in Jewish Education in the Pardes Educator's Program in Jerusalem, and has committed to teach in Jewish day school in America for at least 3 years. He sees the SBM as a great forum to grow, learn, and broaden his perspective, as well as to strengthen his skills on his quest to become a dedicated Jewish educator. Aron's wife, Ariel, will be teaching this summer at Genesis at Brandeis University.



Jonathan Ziring, from Staten Island, has attended Yeshivat Har Etzion and is now at Yeshiva University. He hopes that SBM will help develop a methodology by which to study Halakhic texts and topics with a goal toward producing practical law, as opposed to the purely analytical approaches he has previously focused on. Jonathan is also looking forward eagerly to the opportunity to teach and present Torah to the greater Boston community.

For more information, or to support CMTL, see <http://www.torahleadership.org/> or contact Anne Sendor.