



# 2010 ANNUAL REPORT

SHALOM HARTMAN INSTITUTE



The Shalom Hartman Institute (SHI) is a center of transformative thinking and teaching that addresses the major challenges facing the Jewish people and elevates the quality of Jewish life in Israel and around the world. An exciting year for the Institute, 2010 saw the production of the *Engaging Israel: Foundations for a New Relationship* video lecture study series (released in early 2011)—the first educational initiative of the Engaging Israel project; the launch of the Be’eri School for Teacher Education at the Shalom Hartman Institute in Jerusalem; an intensified presence of the Institute in the public sphere; and the launch of the Shalom Hartman Institute of North America, which is already reaching tens of thousands of North American Jewish lay leaders, rabbis, educators, scholars, and professionals through programs in major cities across the continent. The newly established North American division joins the Kogod Research Center for Contemporary Jewish Thought and the Center for Israeli-Jewish Identity to form the three pillars of the Shalom Hartman Institute. This three-pronged model consolidates the Institute’s core strengths and increases its efficiency while preserving the creativity, vision, and depth that are the Institute’s *raison d’être*.



*Dear Friends,*



*2010 was a year of significant change and innovation at the Hartman Institute. After more than 30 years, the founder of the Institute, my father David Hartman, retired due to health issues from his position as Co-President, in order to free himself to concentrate on his writing. As founder and guiding visionary since our inception, who we are and what we have achieved is due to his work and efforts. As we move forward, it is his shoulders on which we stand, and his conviction to affect the future of Jewish life in Israel and around the world through the development of innovative, relevant and compelling ideas and the training of elite scholars, rabbis, educators, and lay people to carry and disseminate them continues to serve as the foundation and guiding principle for all our work.*

*Coming out of the fiscal crisis of the last few years, the Institute embarked on a number of key, new initiatives in 2010. The first and most significant was the founding of Shalom Hartman Institute of North America (SHI-NA) under the leadership of its President, Dr. Yehuda Kurtzer, making the Institute the first major bi-continental Jewish educational center. Joining the Institute's other centers—the Kogod Center for Contemporary Jewish Thought and the Center for Israeli-Jewish Identity—SHI-NA spearheads and leads all Institute activities geared toward the North American Jewish community.*

*With approximately 13.5 million Jews worldwide, 6 million in Israel, and 6 million in North America, we understood that there was a need to more deeply serve and impact on each of these two leading communities both independently and in new cooperative ways, and to forge new opportunities for the Judaism of Israel and the Judaism of North America to enter into a new dialogue and to influence, shape and enrich each other.*

*In its first year of activity, SHI-NA initiated the Community Leadership Torah study program in six cities across North America, rabbinic study retreats in North America, the North American Scholars Circle—which brings leading young academics together to work on central issues facing the contemporary North American Jewish community, and numerous partnerships with key Jewish institutions across the continent. During 2010 our Department of Rabbinic Enrichment, led by Rabbi Dr. Rachel Sabath Beit-Halachmi, opened the fourth cohort of its Rabbinic Leadership Initiative, our three-year program to enrich the top echelon of the North American rabbinate; and drew record numbers of rabbis to our two-week summer seminar here in Jerusalem.*

*The Kogod Research Center continued to reposition itself as a leading think tank and convener of research and discussion on the key issues and dilemmas facing modern Jewish life. We are a people who have affected history through the quality, relevance, and depth of our ideas. The mandate of the Kogod Research Center is to ensure that we continue to produce such ideas that in turn serve as the intellectual foundation for all SHI educational initiatives.*

*A major new initiative undertaken in 2010 in the Research Center is the Engaging Israel Project. For too long, the Jewish community has taken for granted the stability of the relationship between world Jewry and Israel, and consequently has not developed new ideas on which to found this relationship in the 21st century. As a result, we now find ourselves with a community increasingly bifurcated around Israel and without a language and Jewish values system to ensure that we remain one united people. The aim of the Engaging Israel Project is to produce these ideas and language. The Project's thirteen scholars—eight in Israel and five in North America— are working continually to articulate a new conceptual Jewish values-based framework on which to ground this relationship.*

*This project also serves as a model for the integration of innovative research and pioneering educational programming which lies at the foundation of the Institute's methodology. The aim of our work is not only to generate new ideas but to take responsibility for their dissemination through key change agents in the larger Jewish world. In this spirit, the Engaging Israel Project works simultaneously through the Kogod Research Center and SHI-NA.*

*In 2010, we developed the Engaging Israel DVD lecture series, a lay leadership toolkit to be used in synagogues, federations, JCC's, Israeli consulates, and other Jewish institutions. As we move forward, this will be followed by the development of an Engaging Israel study curriculum for high schools, training programs for campus educators, a new "iEngage" website, as well as many other initiatives.*

*The Center for Israeli-Jewish Identity reached new heights during 2010 as the Be'eri program—a resource center transforming Israel's public high schools into centers of pluralistic Jewish study and identity—grew under the leadership of Daniel Elazar, from fifty to seventy-five participating schools, and opened the doors to its new School for Teacher Education. Our Lev Aharon program for senior Israeli Army officers, under the directorship of Ya'akov Castel, won a new three-year tender from the IDF. Focusing on issues of Jewish and Israeli identity and religious pluralism, the program continues to reach thousands of officers, from the rank of major on up. To date, more than 5,000 senior officers have gone through the program. Our two high schools, which model a new approach for open-minded and pluralistic Orthodox education committed to Israel as a Jewish and democratic state, reached new heights. The Charles E. Smith Boys High School was awarded the National Education Prize for outstanding high school in the country, while our Midrashiya for Girls was selected as the first-ever experimental school for Orthodox feminist education.*

*We look forward to 2011 with much excitement. During this year, we will leverage our unique combination of excellence of ideas and innovative, broad reaching educational initiatives to expose the work of the Institute to continually growing audiences. I want to thank the faculty and staff of the Hartman Institute for their spirit, dedication, excellence, and entrepreneurial spirit, which has helped our Institute to maintain its position of leadership, and to thank you, our friends, for your partnership, guidance, commitment, and support, without which all of this would have remained merely a dream.*

*Donniel Hartman, President*

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Donniel Hartman', with a stylized, flowing script.

**The Kogod Research Center for Contemporary Jewish Thought**—the Institute’s think tank—generates ideas and research on contemporary issues central to Jewish life in Israel and around the world.

**The Center for Israeli-Jewish Identity** creates educational models that nurture pluralistic Jewish identity among educators and senior officers of the Israel Defense Forces (IDF). Introducing these present and future Israeli change agents to a multifaceted approach to Judaism that is meaningful and relevant to their daily lives creates a ripple effect in the communities in which they operate.

**The Shalom Hartman Institute of North America** partners with North American Jewish change agents—rabbis, lay leaders, scholars, educators, and professionals—to leverage unique models of pluralistic, in-depth, text-based teaching, scholarship, and program development that address the challenges facing contemporary North American Jewry.

## THE KOGOD RESEARCH CENTER FOR CONTEMPORARY JEWISH THOUGHT

### Center Fellows



### Department of Publications



### Engaging Israel Project



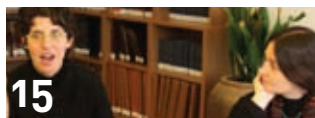
### Annual Conferences



International Philosophy  
Conference

Osher Department  
International Theology  
Conference

### Seder Nashim Beit Midrash Program



## THE CENTER FOR ISRAELI-JEWISH IDENTITY

### Be'eri Program for Jewish-Israeli Identity Education



### Lev Aharon IDF Senior Officers' Program



### Model Orthodox High Schools



Charles E. Smith High School  
for Boys

Midrashiya High School  
for Girls

## THE SHALOM HARTMAN INSTITUTE OF NORTH AMERICA

### Community Leadership Programs



### Rabbinic Leadership Programs



Rabbinic Leadership Initiative  
Rabbinic Torah Study Seminar  
Rabbinic Student Seminar

### Research Team for Applied Jewish Thought



Engaging Israel Team of  
North America

North American Scholars Circle

### Christian Leadership Initiative



### Melamdim Graduate School for Teacher Education





KOGOD  
RESEARCH CENTER  
FOR CONTEMPORARY  
JEWISH THOUGHT



The future of Judaism rests on its ability to continually generate new thinking that is grounded in Judaism's rich past while providing meaningful responses to the existential questions facing Jews today. At the heart of the Shalom Hartman Institute is the Kogod Research Center for Contemporary Jewish Thought, the Institute's independent, multidenominational think tank, which draws on thousands of years of Jewish intellectual thought to develop new ideas that shape and enrich modern Jewish life in Israel and around the world.



### Read more

The US-based Research Team for Applied Jewish Thought is a division of the Jerusalem-based Kogod Research Center for Contemporary Jewish Thought, **page 31**



יעקב ידגר

המסורות בישראל

מודרניות ללא חילון

### PUBLISHED IN 2010

*Secularism and Religion in Jewish-Israeli Politics - Traditionists and Modernity* (in Hebrew) by Yaacov Yadgar explores complex facets of the Israeli Conservative movement and its relationship to spirituality and modernity.

## Center Fellows

At the core of the Center are its Fellows, who are tasked with producing innovative and transformative thinking that render Judaism relevant culturally, intellectually, and pragmatically; disseminating the results of this thinking to a wide audience through the Institute's various print publications and electronic platforms; and working with Shalom Hartman Institute program directors to develop curricula for new initiatives and programs based on this thinking. Committed to a pluralistic Judaism, the fellows reinvestigate tradition in their goal of creating original responses to the contemporary challenges facing Judaism and the Jewish people.

During 2010, the 44 Center Fellows, who are drawn from the faculties of Israel's leading institutions of higher education, engaged in intensive year-round work in eight research groups dedicated to exploring contemporary challenges to modern Judaism. Fostering a community that facilitates the exchange of ideas, the Center provides scholars with the opportunity to study classical texts, present their work, and receive feedback from colleagues—a collaborative dynamic that is rare in academia.

## Department of Publications

Responsible for the publication of three series of books, three journals, a quarterly newsletter, and the Hartman video lecture study series, the Department of Publications is one of the main channels through which Hartman scholarship is made available to the public.

### Book Series

The department publishes three book series: the [Kogod Library of Judaic Studies](#) in English in partnership with the Continuum press; the Hebrew [Yehaduyot](#); and the [Israeli Judaism](#) series.



## Journals

The year 2010 saw the publication of the second volume of *Reishit*, an academic peer-reviewed online journal published annually in Hebrew. *Reishit* examines all aspects of Jewish culture, from the Bible to contemporary Israeli Judaism and social issues in Israel.

Launched in 2010 and targeted at a broad Israeli audience, the semiannual *Dorsheini* journal of opinion aims to enhance pluralistic Jewish discourse and inquiry.

The semiannual English-language *Havruta Journal of Jewish Conversation* translates the work of Institute scholars into accessible language. During the 2009-10 academic year, members of the North American Scholars Circle (NASC) delved into the topic of *ikkarim*, exploring the idea that Judaism has, at heart, essential *ikkarim*, or guiding principles. The NASC scholars approached this theme from a wide variety of angles, drawing upon their diverse backgrounds and expertise. The outcome, "*Ikkarim: Searching for the Core of Judaism*," was published in February 2011 as volume 6 of the *Havruta Journal*.

## DORSHEINI

**Volume 1** explores the Jewish identity of the State of Israel and the concept of Israeli collective memory.

**Volume 2** focuses on the complex intertwining of religion and secularism in the State of Israel.

## HAVRUTA

**Volume 4:** The Business of Ethics from the perspective of Jewish values.

**Volume 5:** Thinking about Women addresses tensions between Judaism and feminism.



**Read more**

The NASC articles on *ikkarim* appear in *Havruta* 6, page 31

## *Dvarim Ahadim* Newsletter

Eight issues of the Hebrew digital newsletter *Dvarim Ahadim* were published in 2010. Showcasing the scholarship of Center Fellows and visiting scholars, the newsletter draws the attention of the Israeli media by engaging the public in a dialogue relevant to contemporary Israeli society. *Dvarim Ahadim* is translated into the English *Reflections*, made available on the Institute's website.



## Video Lecture Series

The Hartman video lecture series brings the excellence of Hartman scholarship directly to local study groups by providing rabbis and educational leaders with curricula relevant to contemporary challenges. Adult education group leaders present the Hartman video lectures to participants and then lead the group in hevruta-style study. Thousands of congregants led by rabbis and educators across North America have benefited from the first two volumes of the series, *Leadership and Crisis* (published in 2009) and *The "Other" in Jewish Tradition* (published in 2010), which draw upon cutting-edge scholarship to address critical questions of our time. Work on the *Engaging Israel: Foundations for a New Relationship* lecture series commenced in 2010 (the series was released in early 2011).

### Read more

The Engaging Israel Project,  
page 11

Engaging Israel for rabbis,  
page 29

Engaging Israel Team,  
page 31





## The Engaging Israel Project

The goal of the Engaging Israel project, launched in 2010, is to create a new narrative regarding the significance of Israel for Jewish life, thereby responding to the growing feelings of disenchantment with and disinterest in Israel among an ever-increasing number of Jews worldwide. This narrative will constitute the foundation of a new covenant between Israel and world Jewry by elevating the existing discourse from one with a crisis-based focus to one rooted in Jewish values and ideas.

In a world of choice, people will relate to Israel only to the extent that Israel is intrinsically connected with the vitality, meaning, and purpose of their Judaism. A conversation must be initiated that asks each individual what Israel means to him or her Jewishly and what that individual's vision is for the values, ideals, and ideas that shape the modern Jewish State and its policies.

To achieve the goal of creating a narrative to serve as the foundation for a renewed covenant between Israel and world Jewry, an international research team consisting of a unit working out of the Shalom Hartman Institute in Jerusalem and a unit at the Shalom Hartman Institute of North America was established in 2010. The team's tasks are to:

- > Analyze the issues that have led to the alienation of the world Jewish community from Israel
- > Develop a set of "rules of engagement" that will be used in shaping a new values-based conversation and governing the ensuing relationship between Israel and world Jewry
- > Identify the specific issues that have to be addressed and articulating a variety of answers to suit the diverse populations constituting the Jewish people
- > Develop new thinking and approaches that combine Jewish thought, international law, and political philosophy to serve as a resource for a wide range of educational initiatives to engage Jews around the world
- > Produce a corpus of accessible, easily usable content that will be made available to the public via a wide range of multimedia venues



### 2010 ISRAEL-BASED ENGAGING ISRAEL RESEARCH TEAM:

- > Rabbi Dr. Donniel Hartman
- > Dr. Tal Becker
- > Yossi Klein Halevi
- > Rabbi Dr. Rachel Sabath Beit-Halachmi
- > Professor Gil Troy
- > Noam Zion

### 2010 NORTH AMERICA- BASED ENGAGING ISRAEL RESEARCH TEAM:

- > Dr. Yehuda Kurtzer
- > Professor Steven M. Cohen
- > Rabbi Sharon Cohen Anisfeld
- > Professor Suzanne Last Stone
- > Professor Jack Wertheimer

## Engaging Israel Project 2010 Achievements

- > Formation of a world-class research task force
- > Development, production, and release of the 9 part video lecture series, currently being taught or slated for use in congregations across North America
- > Production of first collection of written Engaging Israel content
- > Enhanced exposure of the project through blog posts and articles read by tens of thousands of people worldwide
- > Teaching of Engaging Israel curricula at major conferences, conventions, seminars, and leadership events

### LECTURES INCLUDE:

- 1 From Crisis to Covenant
- 2 Religion and Peoplehood
- 3 Sovereignty and Identity
- 4 Power and Powerlessness
- 5 War and Occupation
- 6 Morality on the Battlefield
- 7 Jewish and Democratic State
- 8 Religious Pluralism and Human Rights
- 9 Values Nation

The *Engaging Israel: Foundations for a New Relationship* video lecture series features nine lectures by Rabbi Dr. Donniel Hartman, followed by interviews with Engaging Israel team members and leading subject-matter experts; a sourcebook containing all relevant study materials and background readings—including biblical, Talmudic, philosophical, and contemporary sources; and a leader's guide for the rabbi or educator.

The project and its ensuing messages will be further disseminated in 2011 through a combination of leadership education programs and an *iEngage* multimedia resource center which will provide easy access to Engaging Israel materials. Educational programs will continue to be developed as the project evolves. The Institute will define the content of some of these programs, while others will be planned in coordination with partner institutions.



### Read more

For more on the Shalom Hartman Institute video lecture series, [page 10](#)

## Conferences

Every year the Kogod Center for Contemporary Jewish Thought hosts two annual conferences at the Shalom Hartman Institute's Jerusalem campus. In 2010, these conferences brought together leading thinkers from around the world to explore classical texts in an effort to achieve shared understanding and create a discourse that would provide new directions for addressing contemporary challenges.



### Osher Department International Theology Conference

In February 2010, the 23rd annual Osher Department International Theology Conference brought together more than 50 leading Jewish, Christian, and Muslim theologians and academics from 15 countries for a week of study on the theme of “[Holy Living in Human Bodies.](#)” Approaching the topic with an understanding that each religion holds views that can enhance the others, the scholars studied key texts from each tradition, which also served as the base materials for plenary seminar discussions led by conference participants. The public was invited to attend the Edward Bronfman Family Foundation Annual Lecture on Religious Pluralism, in which three theologians—a Christian, a Muslim, and a Jew—presented their points of view and answered challenging questions about what it means to be created in God’s image.

#### Read more

For more on interfaith programs, read about the Christian Leadership Initiative, [page 32](#)



“The Theology Conference at the Shalom Hartman Institute is the model for what we emulate at Graduate Theological Union in terms of interreligious dialogue.”

**Dr. Naomi Seidman,**  
*Graduate Theological Union and  
Shalom Hartman Institute North  
American Scholars Circle*



### Read more

The success of this conference in reaching such a broad segment of Israeli society was a result of the Institute’s public relations initiatives, see [page 35](#)

## International Philosophy Conference

The 24th annual International Philosophy Conference, which took place in June 2010, attracted more than 40 distinguished philosophers, political theorists, and legal theorists from universities around the world for a week of interdisciplinary exchange about ethical and political issues as seen through the prism of Jewish philosophy. The program focused on the theme of expanding the religious community and examined the concept of universal religiosity.

## Tolerance Conference

In January 2011, the Institute hosted a conference entitled [Planting Tolerance, Uprooting Prejudice](#). This conference served as the culmination of the Institute’s 2010 activity related to one of the most pressing challenges facing Israeli society today—the increase in prejudice against Israel’s Arab citizens. The event, which was open to the public, gained the support of a large number of socially active Israeli organizations, which joined Hartman Institute faculty and staff in giving expression to the aversion that many Israelis feel toward such prejudice. The conference featured lectures and panel discussions by politicians—including members of Knesset from various parties—social activists, academics, representatives of the media—also from across the political spectrum—Hartman scholars, and rabbis of different denominations. A common denominator united all the participants: the understanding that the population cannot remain silent on this issue.

## PLANTING TOLERANCE UPROOTING PREJUDICE

“It was great! We came with eight students, Jews and Arabs. The lectures and discussions really interested them (and us, of course) and made them think. And of course, the very existence of the conference and the effort we undertook to bring them were themselves an important lesson.”

**Dina Markov,**  
*Kfar HaYarok High School*



## Seder Nashim Beit Midrash Program

During the two-year Seder Nashim Beit Midrash course of study, participants explore the intersection between Jewish studies and women's studies, gaining insights from both disciplines. The male and female scholars in this program, representing a variety of academic fields and a spectrum of religious backgrounds, study classical Jewish literature and feminist theory to research selected themes relating to women from a feminist perspective. The first cohort, which graduated from the program in June 2010, studied the theme of birth in Jewish literature. In October 2010, the second cohort began its study of the birthing body.



### Read more

For more the role SHI plays in empowering women, read about the Midrashiya High School for Girls, **page 23**





# CENTER FOR ISRAELI-JEWISH IDENTITY

Israel's future as a Jewish state and its relationship to world Jewry depends largely on the strength of its citizens' commitment to Judaism and religious diversity. Impoverished contemporary discourse and a dearth of relevant educational opportunities undermine these commitments, jeopardizing the future of Israel as a democratic Jewish state. The Center for Israeli-Jewish Identity develops innovative educational initiatives aimed at enhancing the Israeli-Jewish identity of Israel's present and future leaders.

## Be'eri Program for Jewish-Israeli Identity Education

The Be'eri Jewish-Israeli identity education program enables tens of thousands of students in secular high school across Israel to reclaim ownership of their Jewish identity by presenting them with a Judaism that is meaningful and relevant to them. A resource center for secular Israeli high schools, Be'eri partners with tens of public high schools and trains hundreds of leading educators in the skills required to nurture Jewish-Israeli identity. Having penetrated the Israeli educational landscape far beyond the depth and breadth of any other Jewish identity program in the country, Be'eri introduced over 50,000 students from a range of socioeconomic and geographic backgrounds to a multifaceted approach to Judaism in the 2010-11 school year, creating a natural connector that links Israeli youth with world Jewry.

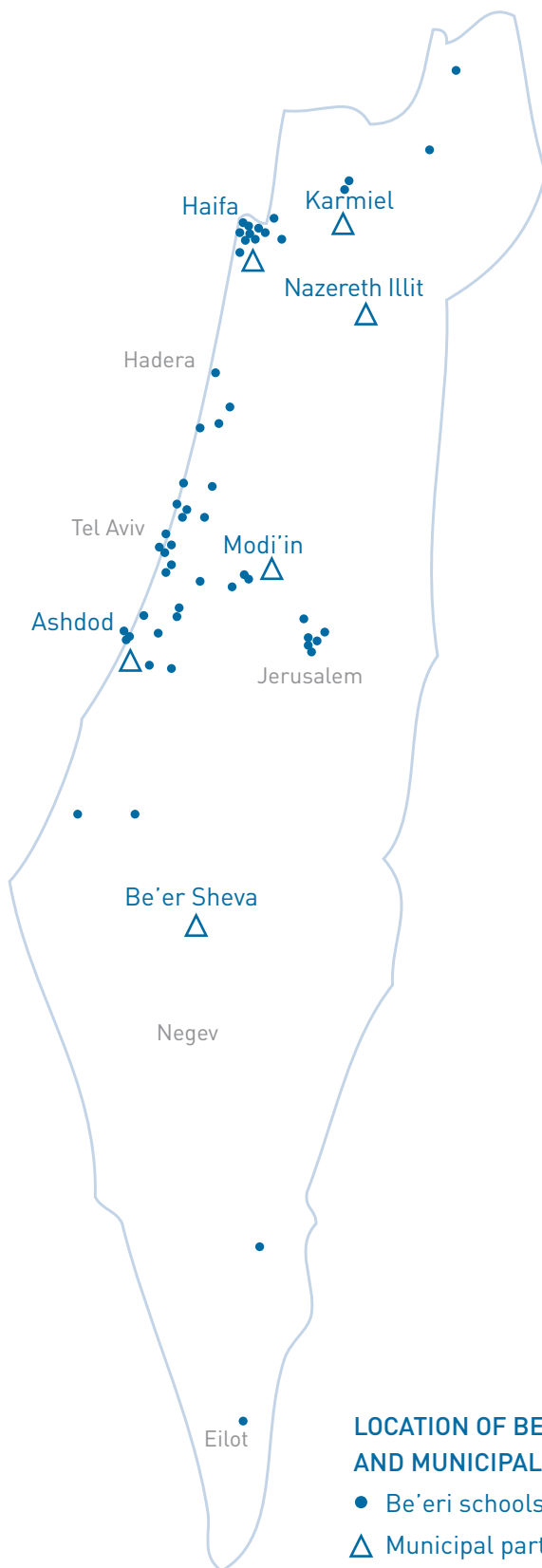
### BE'ERI BY NUMBERS

- > 75 schools
- > 50,000 students
- > 6 municipal partnerships
- > Hundreds of educators participating in a range of seminars and courses offered by the School for Teacher Education.

In 2010, the Israeli Ministry of Education initiated a new *Tarbut Yisrael* (Jewish heritage) program aimed at making Jewish-Israeli culture an integral part of the curriculum of secular Israeli high schools. The Be'eri program, which contributed to the development of this national initiative, is working in full cooperation with the ministry and has been granted a significant role in designing the curriculum for this initiative and teaching methods for its implementation.







## Be'eri Program 2010 Achievements

- > An increase from 54 schools in the 2009-10 school year to 75 participating high schools
- > Participation of 50,000 students in formal and informal Tarbut Yisrael programming
- > Establishment of six municipal partnerships with Haifa, Modi'in, Ashdod, Be'er Sheva, Karmiel, and Nazereth Illit
- > Enrollment of hundreds of educators in long- and short-term training at the Be'eri School for Teacher Education, launched in partnership with the Keren Karev foundation in October 2010. The school provides specialized training courses for high school principals and basic and advanced training tracks for Jewish studies teachers.
- > Addition of a regional supervision level to the structure of Be'eri's municipal facilitation organization. Regional coordinators were appointed to oversee activity in each of four regions—northern Israel, southern Israel, and the Jerusalem and Tel Aviv areas.

## Lev Aharon

The Israeli military experience leaves a lasting impression on the hundreds of thousands of young adults who pass through its ranks every year. The mission of the Lev Aharon program is to assist senior Israel Defense Forces (IDF) officers in developing a strong, positive Jewish-Israeli identity that will inform and guide the style of their military leadership and service. By understanding the relevance of Jewish values and heritage to their role, these leaders are better able to instill in their soldiers the importance of Jewish-Israeli identity to the ethos and operations of the IDF.

Lev Aharon seminars for majors, lieutenant-colonels, and colonels, many of whom have attended Israel's most elite military academy, endow over one thousand officers a year with a mission that arises from the core values of Jewish culture and heritage, not external threats. Established in 2006, Lev Aharon enables participants to explore leadership ideals in Judaism through various paradigms presented in biblical and rabbinic texts. An open discourse based on a combination of lectures, text study, and intimate group discussion led by scholars presenting different streams of Judaism strengthens the sense of purpose, belonging, and solidarity that helps the officers better serve the Jewish state while strengthening their connection with the Jewish community, the Bible, and Jerusalem.

“Thank you for the opportunity to participate in this powerful experience.”

*IDF Colonel*

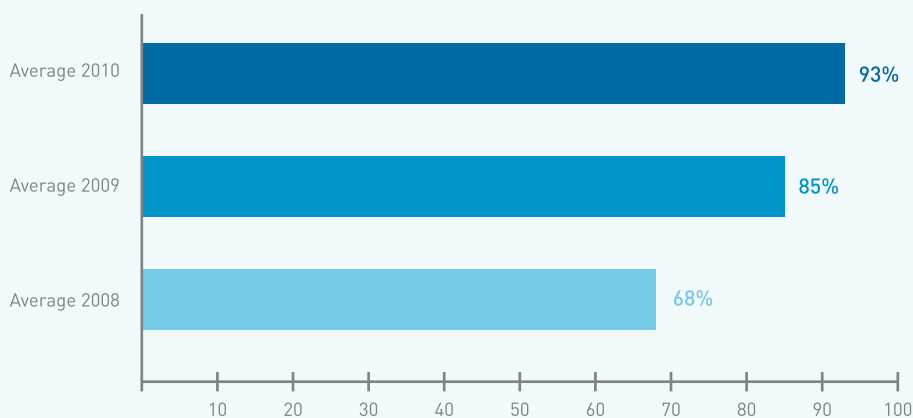


“The use of Jewish sources as a common denominator captivated me in this excellent workshop.”

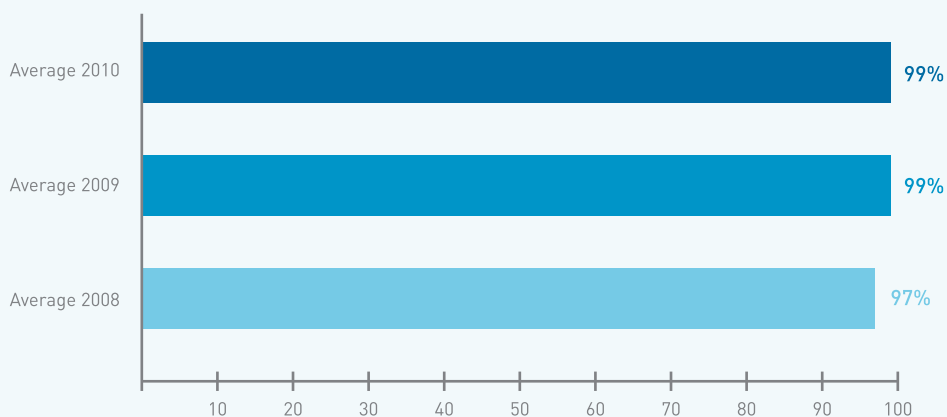
*IDF Colonel*

Having won an IDF contract in February 2010 for another three years of partnership, Lev Aharon runs a variety of programs, each of which consists of a daylong orientation; a core seminar; and post-seminar follow-up sessions led by distinguished thinkers and senior military figures.

### Outstanding Evaluation of the Lev Aharon Course by Participants



The course enhanced my understanding of the importance of cultivating cohesion in my unit through tolerance and multiculturalism



General satisfaction with the course

## Model Orthodox High Schools

The Hartman Institute's model Orthodox high schools nurture a generation of future leaders within Israel's Orthodox community, a generation that is committed to democratic values, open to new ideas, and respectful of the diversity in Israeli and Jewish life. Serving a total of 700 students, the Charles E. Smith High School for boys and the Midrashiya for girls provide rigorous Jewish and general studies programs that promote critical thinking, tolerance, individual creativity, community leadership, and social responsibility.



### Charles E. Smith High School for Boys

The Charles E. Smith High School for boys provides its students with an innovative Modern Orthodox education, connecting Jewish tradition to the world of contemporary culture and science while encouraging a combination of academic excellence and social involvement. These ideals find expression in the outstanding academic and social achievements of the school's students and alumni.

All students participate in the school's acclaimed community-outreach program, which enables them to contribute to society and instills them with leadership skills and a sense of social awareness and responsibility. With the focus of the 2010-11 school year on assisting senior citizens, students have undertaken service projects that help them learn about the needs of the older generation, its place in Israeli society, concerns related to Holocaust survivors, and other issues regarding senior citizens.

The school attributes immense importance to the creation of a broader community extending to parents and alumni. In October 2010, the school held a 25-year reunion at which approximately 600 graduates and their families joined school faculty past and present to reconnect and renew their connection with the Hartman Institute as adults.

### HIGH SCHOOLS: STUDENT ACHIEVEMENTS

**Noam Oren**, a student in the class of 2011, met with Finance Minister Dr. Yuval Steinitz to discuss his philosophy thesis.

**Yedidya Harris**, a student in the class of 2011, won the Ilan and Assaf Ramon prize for quality, excellence, and leadership.



## Midrashiya High School for Girls

The Midrashiya girls' high school, now in its fourth year, implements an educational vision that blends respect for Jewish tradition and learning with a commitment to halakha and feminist ideology. The school provides a holistic environment in which students can develop spiritually, physically, and intellectually. All Jewish studies classes are taught in the intimate, informal atmosphere of a *beit midrash*, in which 10-15 students study together, guided by a mentor. This method of study is also being integrated into other departments.

A body-soul awareness program sees to the emotional, psychological, and physical development of the girls during adolescence and aims to cultivate their understanding of the connection between their body and soul. In an unprecedented move by the Israeli Ministry of Education, the Midrashiya has been given a five-year mandate to develop the school's Orthodox feminist curriculum for the state religious school system.

Like their counterparts at the Charles E. Smith High School for boys, the girls at the Midrashiya are committed to community involvement. Also focusing on assisting senior citizens during the 2010-11 school year, students are participating in such activities as visiting elderly hospital patients and instructing them in computer literacy.

"The curriculum of Hartman's Midrashiya is a real breakthrough for religious education. The school is a paragon of religious feminism. Talking about feminism within the educational system, thinking about a feminist agenda, and building a feminist identity for young women is innovative by any standard, even a secular one."

**Tamar Rotem,**  
*Haaretz, January 16, 2011*



### Read more

For more on the role the Shalom Hartman Institute plays in empowering women, read about the Seder Nashim Beit Midrash program, [page 15](#)



# SHALOM HARTMAN INSTITUTE OF NORTH AMERICA

The Shalom Hartman Institute of North America (SHI-NA) enriches the resources, vision, and commitment of the leaders and change agents who are shaping the future of Jewish life in North America and setting the agendas of the educational, religious, and community institutions of North American Jewry. SHI-NA programs target scholars, rabbis, educators, lay leaders, and professionals through a series of initiatives that impact on hundreds of thousands of people.

## Community Leadership Programs

Community Leadership Programs provide hundreds of Jewish professionals and lay leaders of all denominations across North America with a range of text-based courses and seminars with Hartman Institute faculty. The programs strengthen and expand the intellectual horizons of community leaders, enabling them to respond more meaningfully to contemporary issues and challenges facing Jewish life in their communities. The programs include year-long community-based study; summer and winter study retreats in North America; and a 10-day summer study retreat (at the Hartman Institute campus in Jerusalem) that combines in-depth exploration of Jewish texts and presentations by Hartman scholars and prominent public figures, offering participants a first-hand encounter with the Institute's "big thinking."

### Community Leadership Programs Partnerships

- > Jewish Community Federation of San Francisco, Peninsula, Marin and Sonoma Counties
- > Jewish Family and Children's Services of San Francisco, Peninsula, Marin and Sonoma Counties
- > Contemporary Jewish Museum, San Francisco
- > UJA Federation of Greater Toronto
- > The Lola Stein Institute, Toronto
- > Jewish Federation of South Palm Beach County
- > State of Israel Bonds, Miami-Dade
- > Center for Advancement of Jewish Education, Miami
- > Sixth & I Historic Synagogue, Washington, DC

In 2010, close to 100 Jewish community leaders from across North America participated in the summer retreat at the Hartman campus in Jerusalem. The 2010 "Engaging Israel" theme of study equipped community leaders with the textual foundations, tools, and quintessentially Jewish values vocabulary to define and articulate why Israel and Zionism are fundamental to their Judaism and that of their communities.





“Amazing subject matter;  
superb speakers;  
enlightening information;  
enriching; open;  
transparent.”

*Community Leadership  
Program participant*

As part of its mission to empower North American change agents to enrich Jewish life in their communities, SHI-NA launched 13 seven-part community leadership courses in November 2010. Offered in San Francisco, Los Angeles, South Florida, New York, Toronto, and Washington, DC, the courses match visiting Hartman faculty with select leadership cohorts for intensive monthly study. These adult education groups are studying curricula based on several themes: Engaging Israel; insiders and outsiders; and Judaism and the challenges of modern life.

## Rabbinic Leadership Programs

Widely recognized as a world leader in providing intensive pluralistic, thought-provoking, and challenging study opportunities for rabbis of all denominations, the Shalom Hartman Institute sees the advancement of rabbinic leadership as one of its core missions. The goal of the Rabbinic Leadership Programs is to continually invigorate and revitalize the hundreds of rabbis who study at the Institute, by offering regular opportunities to enrich their knowledge in the foundations of Jewish thought and by providing the empowerment tools that rabbis need to impart this knowledge to the communities whose lives they influence and stimulate on a daily basis.

“A highlight of the RLI winter seminar is the outstanding experience of learning, with strong attention to our nourishment as individuals and as a rabbinic community.”

**Rabbi Amy Small,**  
*Congregation Beth Hatikvah,  
Summit, NJ*

“This has been the most enriching, rewarding experience of my rabbinate in terms of personal growth. RLI is a must for any colleague who is looking to rejuvenate, deepen, and strengthen their rabbinate.”

**Rabbi Jacob Herber,**  
*Congregation Beth Israel,  
Glendale, WI*



## Rabbinic Torah Study Seminar

The annual 10-day Rabbinic Torah Study Seminar, offered to rabbis of all denominations, takes place at the Hartman campus in Jerusalem and attracts more than 100 rabbis, who join Institute scholars in thought-provoking, pluralistic study on a timely theme. Rabbis come away from the seminar with new insights that enrich them, inspire them, and help them meet the diverse spiritual and intellectual needs of their communities.

The 2010 Rabbinic Torah Study seminar was the best attended since the program's inception 29 years ago. Focusing on the theme of Engaging Israel, the 2010 curriculum challenged rabbis with questions revolving around how the Jewish State embodies Jewish values of peoplehood, sovereignty, Zionism, power, and democracy. The goal of the seminar was to impart learning that would enable participants to bring important new thinking to communities and organizations in North America and a fresh language and understanding aimed at renewing the future of Jewish life around the world.

## Rabbinic Leadership Initiative

Immersing an elite cadre of North American rabbis of all denominations in the highest levels of Jewish study, the Rabbinic Leadership Initiative equips participants to meet contemporary challenges with intellectual and moral sophistication. Two important milestones in this program were marked in the summer of 2010—the graduation of the third cohort and the first session of the fourth cohort. In addition, 2010 saw increased activity of the Rabbinic Advisory Committee, whose members—top RLI graduates—offer guidance and feedback to the directors of the Rabbinic Leadership Programs.

Rabbis affiliated with the Hartman Institute were introduced to the *Engaging Israel: Foundations for a New Relationship* video lecture series prior to its release in early 2011. While familiarizing themselves with this curriculum, the rabbis served as an excellent source of insight, helping Hartman scholars fine-tune the series. These partnerships with rabbinic leadership program participants and alumni further the series' goal of inspiring North American Jewish communities to participate in a Jewish-values conversation aimed at bringing about a new covenant between Israel and world Jewry.

"I can't wait to come back to Hartman. It is one of the two or three most important things I've done in my quarter century in the rabbinate."

**Rabbi Lester Bronstein,**  
*Congregation Bet Am Shalom,  
White Plains, NY*

### Read more

The Engaging Israel project,  
**page 11**

*Engaging Israel: Foundations  
for a New Relationship* video  
lecture series, **page 12**

Engaging Israel Team,  
**page 31**

At the end of January 2011, an inaugural retreat for RLI alumni was held in Malibu, California. Alumni of the first three cohorts joined colleagues and Hartman faculty members to rejuvenate the bonds they had formed with one another over the years and to study the subject of covenant and its contemporary challenges and applications.

### **Rabbinic Student Seminar**

The Rabbinic Student Seminar provides an opportunity for North American rabbinic students of all denominations to study with leading Hartman scholars and to gain exposure to pluralistic thought during their year in Israel. In the fall of 2010, a cohort of 29 rabbinic students came together to begin exploring Jewish texts and to form cross-denominational relationships in a spiritually nourishing setting. The relationships formed in the context of this study experience will pave the way for pluralistic understanding and interaction as these students obtain a pulpit and assume leadership roles in the future.





## Research Team for Applied Jewish Thought

The Research Team for Applied Jewish Thought is the North American division of the Jerusalem-based Kogod Research Center for Contemporary Jewish Thought. The Research Team for Applied Jewish Thought comprises the North American Scholars Circle (NASC) and the North America-based Engaging Israel team. The members of these two teams are leading thinkers, scholars, and educators who gather to develop pluralistic, inspiring, intellectually sophisticated Jewish ideas and to translate them into action for the North American Jewish community.

### North American Scholars Circle

Working together to shape a new Jewish conversation in North America, NASC is tasked with formulating meaningful approaches to making Judaism relevant to contemporary life and using scholarship to elevate the discourse of contemporary Judaism within the community. To achieve these goals, NASC channels new ideas from academia into the community and brings critical questions posed by the community to the attention of academia.

The inaugural NASC cohort (2009-10) produced a series of articles, published in the winter 2011 issue of *Havruta*, which lay out the group's groundwork regarding the big questions and values of contemporary Jewish life. In 2010, the cohort began to focus on the elusive meaning of Jewish "peoplehood," a much-debated concept that has rarely been the object of the kind of rigorous scholarly debate that the NASC fellows have applied to it.

### Engaging Israel Team of North America

The North America-based Engaging Israel team, led by Yehuda Kurtzer, president of the Shalom Institute of North America, brings the voice of North American Jewry and the complexity of its experience to the Engaging Israel project. The goal of the team is to formulate innovative responses to the challenges related to the necessity and significance of the Jewish national enterprise—exploring how a Jewish state should exercise power, why a Jew who lives outside Israel should care about Israel, and what the State of Israel can offer the world.

### ARTICLES PUBLISHED BY NASC MEMBERS IN HAVRUTA 6

- > Principles of the Modern Judaism - A Symposium
- > Rethinking the Jewish Nation
- > Between Berlin and Jerusalem
- > Disenchantment and Enchantment
- > Teaching Literature as Torah
- > The Old-New Beit Midrash



#### Read more

For more on the Kogod Research Center for Contemporary Jewish Thought, **page 8**

SHI scholarship is disseminated through a variety of publications. See **page 8**

The Engaging Israel project, **page 11**

Jerusalem-based Engaging Israel Team, **page 11**

*Engaging Israel: Foundations for a New Relationship* video lecture series, **page 12**

Engaging Israel for rabbis, **page 29**

## Christian Leadership Initiative

By and large, the training of Christian leaders does not cover Jewish textual tradition and the underlying ideologies, nuances, and diversities of contemporary Jewish life. These leaders rarely have the opportunity to learn about contemporary Judaism or to experience Israel firsthand, without the filter of the media and world politics. They are often unaware that living, pluralistic Judaism grapples daily with the same or similar challenges of modernity and ethics of power as Christianity does. In a comprehensive yearlong study program with renowned Jewish-studies scholars, the Christian leadership initiative introduces prominent Christian leaders and change agents from North America to the central ideas of Jewish ethics and faith, the diverse ideologies and practices of contemporary world Jewry, the meaning of Israel for world Jewry, and the foundations of religious pluralism and interreligious study.

The second Christian leadership cohort gathered at the Shalom Hartman Institute in July 2010 to explore the richness of Judaism and the complexity of Jewish life in Israel. Through theology seminars, discussions of Middle East politics, and exposure to traditional Jewish hevruta-style study, participants discovered a Judaism that is vibrant in its contemporary practice and complex in its multiplicity of dimensions and ideas.

“The Hartman Institute is contributing to the global Jewish renaissance in creating a philosophy, theology, and ethics that addresses spiritual life in secular societies like Israel, Europe, and North America. Very few Jewish institutions have won the respect of all four major streams of Judaism as a center for advanced studies.”

**Dr. Robert Cathey,**  
*Professor of Theology,  
McCormick Theological Seminary,  
Chicago, IL and Christian  
Leadership Initiative participant*



### Read more

For more on interfaith initiatives read about the International Theology Conference, [page 13](#)



“At Hartman, we explore and live within the tensions that make the Jewish people so vital and interesting. I feel extremely lucky to have been able to spend these two years at the Shalom Hartman Institute.”

**David J. Steiner,**  
*Melamdin Cohort 5*



## Melamdin Graduate School for Teacher Education

The Melamdin Graduate School for Teacher Education trains a select cadre of Jewish studies educators of all denominations for positions of educational leadership in North American Jewish high schools. The unique dual emphasis that the Melamdin program places on Jewish learning and pedagogical practice is illustrated in the program curriculum, which includes advanced graduate studies with Hartman Institute faculty in Jerusalem, the pursuit of a master's degree in the Tel Aviv University Department of Jewish Thought, and hands-on teaching experience in high school classrooms in Israel. In addition to producing teachers with a strong background in Jewish texts and spoken and written Hebrew, the program equips these future educators with innovative training methods and tools to disseminate the results of their studies—a sense of Jewish identity that is infused with meaning, relevance, and vitality—to the students whom they teach, the schools in which they work, and the wider Jewish community that they serve.

The year 2010 saw the graduation of the fourth Melamdin cohort and the recruitment of 10 highly qualified participants for the sixth cohort, which has begun its studies. The eight participants in the fifth cohort will graduate in June 2011.







## Enhancing the Hartman Institute's Visibility in the Public Sphere

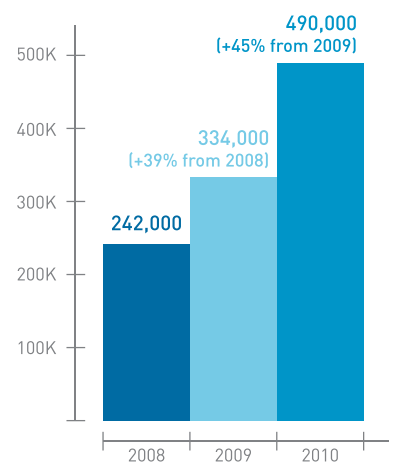
In 2010, the Institute established a new public relations department, based in Israel, to aid in the dissemination of the Institute's scholarship and ideas, as well as to heighten awareness of the Institute and increase its visibility among major media outlets in Israel and North America. The department has brought greater exposure to a broad range of the Institute's thought, leadership, research, and programming through a holistic media presence that emphasizes a well-rounded, multifaceted philosophy and team; regular direct communication with different target audiences; and a variety of events aimed at increasing the Institute's interaction with the general public.

Special attention was paid in 2010 to increasing the speed at which materials in a range of formats are made available to the public via the dynamic Hartman Institute website ( [www.hartman.org.il](http://www.hartman.org.il) ) and newly established social media channels—Facebook, Twitter, and iTunes. During 2010, the Hartman website received half a million page views, with visitors hailing almost equally from North America and Israel.

The most frequently viewed pages on the English website are Donniel Hartman's blog posts, which appear regularly on the English *Haaretz* newspaper homepage and in the corresponding *Haaretz* newsletter and are disseminated through targeted e-mail messages to Hartman supporters and program participants. These supporters and program participants also receive the [Hartman Highlights](#) newsletter, launched in December 2010, which is sent out by e-mail approximately every six weeks.

The Hartman [InsideOut](#) blog, inaugurated in August 2010, offers followers an insider's view of events at the Institute, news about Institute programs, and commentary from the Institute's renowned scholars about critical issues of the day.

Shalom Hartman Institute  
website traffic  
[www.hartman.org.il](http://www.hartman.org.il)



### Read more

For example, Hartman visibility in the public sphere was increased by the Tolerance Conference held in January 2011. See **page 14**

During 2010, dozens of articles by Institute scholars appeared in English and in Hebrew, in major North American Jewish and Israeli print and online media, including the *New York Jewish Week*, the *Jerusalem Post*, *Haaretz*, *Yedioth Ahronoth*, *Ynet*, *Maariv*, and *Israel Today*. Israeli media representatives continually approach Hartman Institute scholars to ascertain their opinions on issues of concern in Israel and among world Jewry.

## Most popular articles on the Shalom Hartman Institute website by page views

- > *What No Rabbi in the World Outside Israel Would Ever Say*, Donniel Hartman 09/2010
- > *After the Flotilla: Crisis and Opportunity*, Tal Becker 06/2010
- > *What Victory Looks Like*, Tal Becker 12/2010
- > *In Creating a New Zionist Ethic History is Not Bunk*, Gil Troy 07/2010



Channa Pinchasi, *Sh'ma*



Donniel Hartman featured in *Yedioth Ahronoth*

Gil Troy, *Jerusalem Post*



Donniel Hartman, *Maariv*

Ariel Picard, *Makor Rishon*



## The Hartman Community

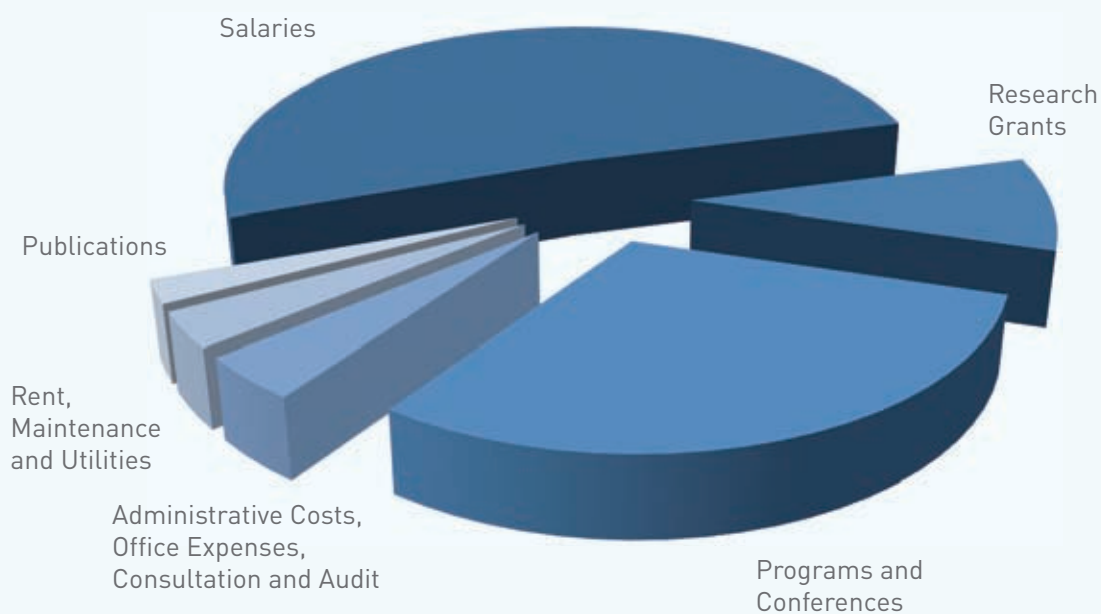
The Shalom Hartman Institute thanks all the staff and faculty who have invested in strengthening the community at SHI, in Israel, and throughout the Jewish world. The Institute extends its deep gratitude for the support of its many donors in partnering with us in service of Jewish identity, vitality, and pluralism. With this support, the Institute was able to provide enrichment, education, and training services for thousands of people in Israel and North America this past year.

Shalom Hartman Institute employees manage an independent Tzedakah fund to support SHI staff and faculty and their families in times of need. In 2010, the SHI community donated more than NIS 20,000, all of which was collected from its own employees to help others in the community.

## Financials 2010

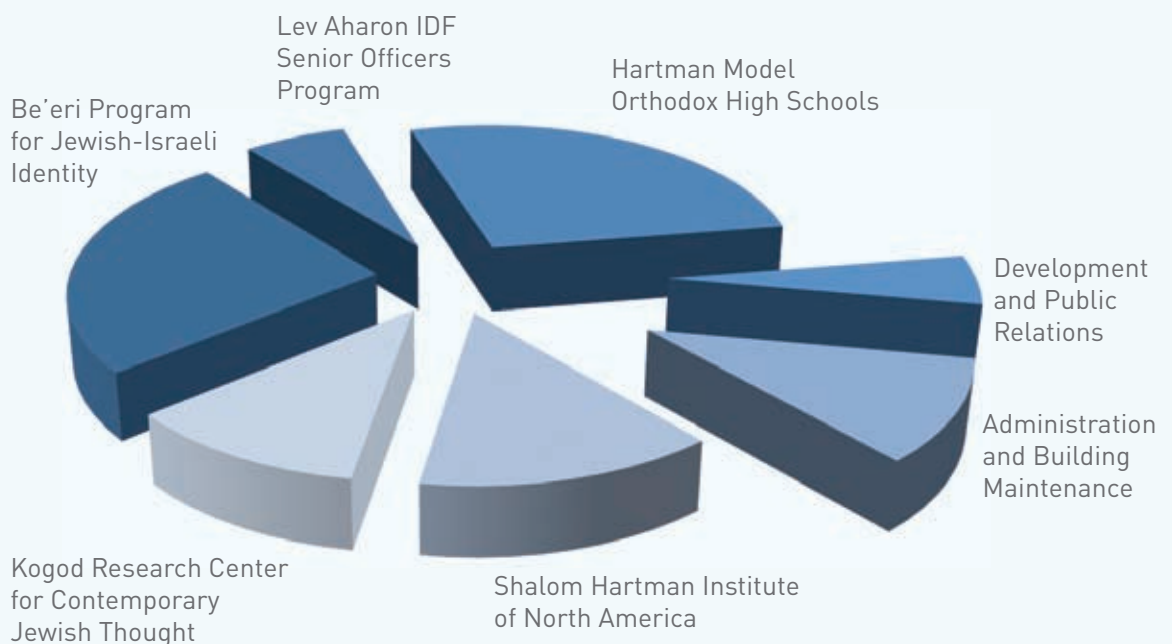
### By Use

Salaries	7,655,000	52%
Programs and Conferences	4,485,000	30%
Research Grants	1,305,000	9%
Administrative Costs, Office Expenses, Consultation, and Audit	610,000	4%
Rent, Maintenance, and Utilities	500,000	3%
Publications	330,000	2%
Total	14,885,000	



## By Center

<b>Kogod Research Center for Contemporary Jewish Thought</b>	1,685,000	11%
<b>Center for Israeli-Jewish Identity</b>		
Be'eri Program for Jewish-Israeli Identity Education	3,770,000	26%
Lev Aharon Senior IDF Officers Program	910,000	6%
Hartman Model Orthodox High Schools	4,035,000	27%
<b>Shalom Hartman Institute of North America</b>	2,050,000	14%
<b>Development and Public Relations</b>	805,000	5%
<b>Administration and Building Maintenance</b>	1,630,000	11%
<b>Total</b>	<b>14,885,000</b>	





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