
Torah, Talmud, and Contemporary Teachings Traverse the Globe Thanks to Technology

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Israel's Schechter Institute Scholars Lecture in L.A. Via Live Video Conference



LOS ANGELES & JERUSALEM-- (BUSINESS WIRE) -- The Schechter Institute of Jewish Studies in Jerusalem, Israel, a non-profit educational organization offering Jewish education, curriculum, and rabbinic training to Jews throughout Israel, Europe and the former Soviet Union through four programs, announces a six-lecture series, "LA Goes the Distance," conducted via live video conference from Israel and featuring the distinguished faculty of the Schechter Institute. Prominent Los Angeles rabbis are hosting the series at the American Jewish Committee's L.A. headquarters, and will moderate a real-time dialogue between the Schechter professor in Israel and the participants in LA. Each lecture explores a particular issue affecting contemporary Jewish life, utilizing both ancient and modern texts.

"Video conferencing enables Schechter scholars to teach anywhere," explains Lou Miller, Co-Chairman of the Los Angeles Friends of Schechter. "We developed 'LA Goes the Distance' to bring together great minds from across the globe to engage in discourse, creating a dynamic, relevant learning experience."

Bruce Whizin, Co-Chairman, enthusiastically adds, "With interactive long distance learning, the L.A. Jewish community can enjoy one Sunday morning each month studying with one of Schechter's renowned scholars. Coming together as Jews to exchange ideas strengthens our connections – to each other in our large L.A. community and to Israel."

Rabbi Joel Rembaum, Rabbi Emeritus of Temple Beth Am in Los Angeles continues, "I'm pleased to host the opening lecture January 10th. Rabbi David Golinkin, president of the Schechter Institutes and unquestionably one of this generation's foremost Jewish thinkers, examines Judaism and ecology, a deeply meaningful subject for us to explore. Our tradition has very powerful and relevant messages addressing how humans have a God-given responsibility to sustain the physical wellbeing and beauty of our planet, even as we use her bounty to live."

Business ethics, the place of Jewish law in liberal Judaism, and the psychology of Jewish rites of passage are additional topics in the series.

"Traveling to Israel via technology provides a unique opportunity for thoughtful Jewish learning experiences with intellectuals outside of L.A.," comments Rabbi Naomi Levy, spiritual leader of Nashuva. "We hear different perspectives and engage in meaningful dialogues on issues we confront every day as human beings and as Jews coping with modernity. I'm looking forward to being a host/moderator."

Other Los Angeles hosts include: Rabbi Elliot Dorff, Rector of the American Jewish University, Rabbi Joshua Levine Grater of Pasadena Jewish Temple, Rabbi Susan Leider of Temple Beth Am and Rabbi Stewart Vogel, senior rabbi at Temple Aliyah.

To learn more about The Schechter Institute and the lecture series, 'LA Goes the Distance' and to register online, visit www.schechter.edu or call 866-830-3321.

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