



2017 INSTITUTE FOR PROSPECTIVE RABBINICAL STUDENTS SCHEDULE (Subject to change)

Be sure to check out the Mordecai Kaplan Library book sale table in the lobby! The books will be out and replenished throughout the Institute. A great way to start building your rabbinic library!

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 8

Regular College Programming Open to Early Arrivals

8:30-9:15 AM **Learners' Minyan**, Rabbi Annie Lewis (Hadar Kehillah)

Choice of Regular Classes (For early arrivals)

8:30-11:20 AM Medieval Core Civilization, Rabbi Jacob Staub, PhD (Room 107)

9:30-11:20 AM Biblical Core Civilization, Elsie Stern, PhD (Room 106)

9:30-11:20 AM Mekhinah Tanakh, Tamar Kamionkowski, PhD (Room 105)

11:30-12:45 PM **Community Limmud: Faculty and Staff Spiritual Journeys**
(Hadar Kehillah)

Rabbi Linda Holtzman (RRC '79), Rabbinic Formation Specialist
Rabbi Maurice Harris (RRC '03), Associate Director of Affiliate Support

Options for Institute Participants

12:30-1:00 PM **Registration/Building Tour**

Tour Guide: Rory Schonning, Mekhinah Student

12:45-1:25 PM **Lunch** (Hadar Kehillah)

Optional Lunchtime Program (Room 105)

Student-Led Torah Study of Parshat Hayei Sarah

Sarah Brammer-Shlay, Micah Weiss and Rebecca Hornstein lead community study of [Parshat Hayei Sarah](#) as part of an effort between [IfNotNow](#) and [Project Hayei Sarah of Breaking the Silence](#). We will examine how the parashah calls us to consider Abraham's actions and character as well as how we as a community view the on-going occupation in Hebron and across Palestine. Now in its ninth year, *Project Hayei Sarah* invites Jewish communities into a conversation through divrei torah, personal stories, and community learning, reclaiming Parshat Hayei Sarah and spark individual and collective action towards a reality in Hebron that is reflective of our highest Jewish ideals. **Institute participants must leave by 1:25 to be ready for the 1:30 Welcome and Introductions.**



Official Start to the Institute Programming

- 1:30-2:15 PM **Welcome and Introductions** (Hadar Kehillah)
Rabbi David Dunn Bauer (RRC '03), Acting Director of Recruitment, Admissions and Student Life
Lonnie Kleinman, Foundation Year I Student and Admissions Intern
- 2:30-3:20 PM **RRC's Approach to Rabbinical Education** (Hadar Kehillah)
Elsie Stern, PhD, Vice President for Academic Affairs
- 3:30-3:45 PM **Mincha** (Hadar Kehillah) **or free time**
Leader: Janine Jankovitz Pastor, Non-Core Student
- 4:00-5:45 PM **What Brings Us Here? Sharing Our Journeys toward the Rabbinate and Our Hopes for the Institute** (Room 106)
Rabbi David Dunn Bauer (RRC '03), Acting Director of Recruitment, Admissions and Student Life
Lonnie Kleinman, Foundation Year I Student and Admissions Intern

Evening programming will be at the home of Rabbi Deborah Waxman, PhD, President of RRC. Please arrive promptly at 6:15 pm (it is a 10 minute drive from RRC.)

Deborah's address: 104 Surrey Road Elkins Park, PA 19027

- 6:15-7:15 PM **Dinner**
- 7:15-8:15 PM **President's Shiur**



THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 9

- 8:15-9:20 AM ***Shacharit*** (Hadar Kehillah)
Leader: Sarah Barasch-Hagans, Non-Core Student
Torah Readers: Rabbi Vivie Mayer (RRC '96), Em DeWitt, Mekhinah Student, and Benjamin Greenfield, Foundation Year I Student
- 9:20-9:30 AM **Continental Breakfast Available** (AMZ Study)
- 9:30-11:20 AM **Choice of Regular Classes or Attend Special Sessions**
- 9:30-11:20 AM **Option 1: Choice of Regular Classes** (note 1 hour, 50 minute class times)
Mekhinah Rabbinic Hebrew, Rabbi Vivie Mayer (RRC '96) (Room 105)
Talmud 1/2, Rabbi Mira Wasserman, PhD (Room 107)
Theologies of Exile and Return, Tamar Kamionkowski, PhD (Room 106)
- Option 2: Special Sessions** (please note start times)
- 9:30-10:20 AM **Opportunities for Spiritual Growth During
Rabbinical School** (Red Room)
Rabbi Jacob Staub, PhD (RRC '77), Director of the Jewish
Spiritual Direction Program
- 10:30-11:20 AM **Panel on Internships, Field Experience,
and Supervision**
(Red Room)
Rabbi Annie Lewis, Director of Rabbinic Formation
Jake Adler, Senior Year Student
Sarah Barasch-Hagans, Non-Core Student



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- 11:30-12:25 PM **Lunch with RRC Faculty** (Hadar Kehillah)
- 12:30-1:20 PM **Observe Regular Class or Attend a Special Session**
Option 1: Regular Class
Mekhinah Modern Hebrew (Room 105)
Sharon Gershoni, PhD, Adjunct Instructor of Hebrew
- Option 2: Special Session**
Engaging Ethics at RRC (Room 106)
Rabbi Mira Wasserman, PhD, Director of the Center for Jewish Ethics
- 1:30-3:20 PM **Observe Regular Classes or Attend Special Sessions**
- 1:30-3:20 PM **Option 1: Choice of Regular Classes** (note 1 hr., 50 min. class length)
Tefillah Shiur, Rabbi Vivie Mayer (RRC '96) and Rabbi Margot Stein (Room 107)
Exploring Theology of Liberation, Rabbi Mordechai Liebling (RRC'85) (Room 106)
- Option 2: Special Sessions** (please note start times)
- 1:30-2:20 PM **Training Rabbis for a Multifaith World** (Room 105)
Rabbi Nancy Fuchs Kreimer, PhD (RRC '82), Director of Multifaith Studies
and Initiatives
- 2:30-3:20 PM **The Reconstructionist Rabbinate - Paths and Opportunities**
(Red Room)
Rabbi Elisa Goldberg, Director of the Office of Rabbinic Career Development
of the Reconstructionist Rabbinical Association
- 3:30-3:45 PM **Mincha** (Hadar Kehillah) **or free time**
Leader: Micah Geurin Weiss, Integration Year III Student
- 3:45-4:30 PM **Social Activism, Community Organizing and the**
Rabbinate (Room 105)
Rabbi Mordechai Liebling (RRC '85), Director of the Social Justice Organizing
Program



4:45-5:45 PM

“What’s It Like?” Student-Facilitated Breakout Groups

(Rooms 105, 106, and Red Room)

Panel 1: Em DeWitt, Mekhinah Student; Jonathan Lee Jackson, Non-Core Student; Alanna Kleinman, Foundational Year I

Panel 2: Mikey Hess Webber, Foundation Year II Student; Sarah Brammer-Shlay, Non-Core Student; Adam Jones, Mekhinah Student

Second career students: Donna Cephas and Daniel Hotary, Non-Core Students; Sandra Lawson, Senior Year Student

6:00-8:00 PM

Dinner in Mount Airy with students (or Free Time)

Participants and current students will caravan to Melelani Cafe in Mount Airy to enjoy a delicious vegetarian dinner. Night owls can continue the fun after dinner and check out any of the favorite hangout spots in the area. Enjoy!

Melelani Cafe Address: 6734 Germantown Ave, Philadelphia, PA 19119



FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 10

- 8:45-9:00 AM **Continental Breakfast Available** (AMZ Study)
- 9:00-9:45 AM ***Shacharit*** (Hadar Kehillah)
Leader: Rabbi Alanna Sklover (RRC '13), Rabbi Educator,
Germantown Jewish Centre
- 10:00-11:00 AM **Breakfast Discussion on “RRC, Reconstructionist Communities
and the Wider World”** (Hadar Kehillah)
Tresa Grauer, PhD, Assistant Vice President of Affiliate Support
Cyd Weissman, Assistant Vice President of Innovation and Impact
- 11:05-12:00 PM **Affording a RRC Education – How Students of Diverse
Backgrounds Make it Work** (Room 105)
Rabbi Amber Powers (RRC '02), Executive Vice President for RRC
- 12:05-12:45 PM **“Preparing for Shabbat” Torah Study** (Library Beit Midrash)
Rabbi Vivie Mayer (RRC '96), Director of the Mekhinah Year and the Beit Midrash
- 1:00-2:00 PM **Lunch and Panel with Reconstructionist Rabbis** (Hadar Kehillah)
Rabbi Isabel de Koninck (RRC '10), Executive Director and Campus Rabbi, Hillel at
Drexel University
Rabbi Isaac Saposnik (RRC '08), Executive Director of Camp Havaya and No'ar
Hadash
Rabbi Diana Miller (RRC '11), Kehilat HaNahar, New Hope, PA
- 2:15-3:15 PM **Closing Program and Evaluation** (Room 105)
- 3:15 PM **Free Time and Return to Hosts**

Candle-lighting is at 4:24pm



SHABBAT (Optional student-led programming)

On Friday night, Institute participants will join RRC students for *Kabbalat Shabbat*, dinner and conversation at 6:00pm at the home of current RRC student Miriam Geronimus in Mount Airy.

Miriam's address: 213 W Upsal Street, Philadelphia, PA 19119

On Saturday morning, participants will join their hosts at nearby congregations for *Shacharit* and then enjoy lunch with small groups of students and Institute participants. Everyone will reconvene as a group Saturday evening at 5:30pm for *Seudah Shlishit* (the third Shabbat meal) and *Havdalah* at the home of current RRC student Talia Apkon.

Talia's address: 440 W Sedgwick Street, Apt D222 Philadelphia, PA 19129

After the Saturday evening program, Institute participants will be free to explore Philadelphia on their own or may return to their hosts' home for some down time. Participants traveling by air or rail should arrange their own transportation to the airport or train station on Saturday night or Sunday morning.

Scheduling One-on-One Meetings

For scheduling a one-on-one meeting with **Rabbi David Dunn Bauer**, Acting Director of Recruitment, Admissions, and Student Life, the sign-up sheet will be posted when you arrive on Wednesday. Feel free to bring a list of any (all!) individual questions you might have.

We ask that Philadelphia area participants give distance travelers first opportunity to sign up (we are happy to schedule one-on-ones after the Institute with those living locally).

If you cannot find a time to meet with David while you are here, there are some opportunities to meet with senior faculty of the College who are also ready to respond to your questions and eager to know you better.

Elsie Stern, PhD Vice President of Academic Affairs

Rabbi Jacob Staub, PhD, Director of Spiritual Direction Program

Rabbi Amber Powers, Executive Vice President

Also, **Rabbi Vivie Mayer**, Director of the Mekhinah Year and the Beit Midrash and **Tamar Kamionkowski, PhD**, Professor of Bible, will be available during the Institute for brief one-on-one advising sessions with participants. We strongly recommend meeting with them if you have any questions regarding your Hebrew language skills.