

Matanel Activity Report

July 8 2014

Name of Project: Matanel Chair for Kabbalah Studies

Year of Activity: 2013-2014

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The state of the Matanel Chair for Kabbalah Studies at Zefat Academic College is very good. Professor Moshe Idel accomplished all of his goals for the 2013-2014 academic year. His individual research projects have been outstanding, representing major accomplishments in uncovering essential writings of Kabbalah written in Zefat. The two open public lectures brought in large numbers of participants from Zefat, the broader Galilee region, and even Haifa and Tel Aviv. These lectures were particularly important to the participants from Zefat and the Upper Galilee who are disenfranchised from the major centers of intellectuality in Israel, and who rarely have the opportunity to learn from world-wide experts such as Professor Moshe Idel. For this reason, we are very pleased that the Matanel Foundation will be a significant sponsor of the scientific conference on Mysticism at Zefat Academic College in 2014-2015.

Specific Request:

As you can see from the 2013-2014 revised budget, we are asking that the balances from the 2013-2014 and 2014-2015 under the Transportation & Lodging budget lines be transferred to the 2014-2015 Scientific Conference budget lines. This will provide a larger funding base for the scientific conference which will largely be used to ensure that academic experts in the field of Mysticism participate in the conference.

Professor Idel will continue his intensive research activities during the 2014-2015 academic year. This includes completing the footnotes and Introduction for the Tzfnat Pa'aneach, and hiring an English editor for his book on Moshe Cordovero ("Male and Female: Equality, Female's Theurgy and Eros).

Appendix:

1. Evaluation Report (pdf)
2. Summary Table of Events (pdf)
3. Financial Report
4. Revised Budget
5. Photos (pdf)



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EVALUATION REPORT (Appendix 1)

The methodology for evaluating the success of the 2013-2014 Matanel Chair for Kabbalah Studies has been quantitative in terms of observing the actual number of tasks accomplished by Professor Idel. Qualitative methodology was also employed in terms of evaluating the satisfaction of his tasks by the senior staff and the participants in his open public lectures.

The satisfaction level of Professor Idel's activities during the 2013-2014 academic is very high.

SUMMARY TABLE OF EVENTS (Appendix 2)

Activity	Name	# of Participants	Details
Publication	"Male & Female: Equality, Female's Theurgy and Eros		Professor Idel is publishing a book in the next month or two on the work of Moshe Cordovero (350 pages; in English)
Research	"Tzafnat Pa'aneah" written by Rabbi Yehudah Halewah (1500's)		Professor Idel transcribed the entire manuscript and typed it (475 pages) with 1,200 footnotes. Next year, he will complete the footnotes and write the Introduction
Open Lecture Series	1. Zefat as the Center of Kabbalah: Why it Flourished?	Approximately 75 people participated	Highly successful
	2. Zefat and Kabbalah	Approximately 100 people participated	Highly successful
Miscellaneous	A lecture on Kabbalah & Spirituality was given by Professor Moshe Idel. Professor Idel participated in faculty meetings	Approximately 20 participated	The lecture was given to the students in the Mysticism & Spiritualities Dept. He also advised the head of the Mysticism and Spiritualities Dept. (Dr. Marianna Ruach-Midbar) on matters relating to the programme of the department.

The activities of the Matanel Chair for Kabbalah Studies run on a 12 month cycle. At the writing of this report, the project is in its 9th month. Activities and accomplishments include:

