



Alma – Community Outreach Lecturers

Dr. Ruth Calderon founded Alma in 1996 and continues to direct Alma College and the “Elul” Bet Midrash. The author of The Market, the Home, the Heart, offering a personal homiletic reading of Talmudic legends published in 2001, Ruth Calderon earned her PhD in Talmudic Literature at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem.

Meirav Rot - a clinical psychologist and psychoanalyst; Meirav Rot is a lecturer in the Psychotherapy program at Tel Aviv University

MP Tzipi Livni - is an Israeli lawyer and politician. She is the current Israeli Opposition Leader and leader of "Kadima", the largest party in the Israeli Parliament.

Dr. Roni Halperan - a lecturer in the Women and Gender program at Tel Aviv University, Roni Halperan is an expert in Israeli women's literature.

Dr. Edna Katzanelson - a clinical and developmental psychologist, Edna Katzanelson teaches at the Department of Psychology at Tel Aviv University and practices as a therapist for children, adults and families. Edna Katzanelson also writes children's books.

Professor Naomi Chazan - Scholar, politician, peace and human rights activist, Naomi Chazan is the president of the New Israel Fund.

Gal Gabay – a journalist, broadcaster and director.

Prop. Amiya Liblich – psychology professor at the Hebrew University and at Tel Aviv Academic College, Amiya Liblich is a widely published author. Among her books are Tissues, published in 1991, To Lea, published in 1995 and Order of Women. In 2011 a new and expanded edition came out in honor of the 100th birthday of the poet Lea Goldberg.

Rabbi Uri Regev – President and CEO of Hidush, working towards religious freedom and equality in Israel. Previously Uri Regev was head of the World Union for Progressive Judaism and the Israel Religious Action Center, and is active in human rights and social justice.

Yizhar Hess, Lawyer - CEO of the Masorti Movement in Israel and co-editor of the bestseller Questions about God. Educated at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem and the Interdisciplinary Center in Hertzeliya and the Schechter Institute, Yizhar Hess is writing his doctoral dissertation in the Department of Philosophy of Education at



Sussex University in England. The previous Vice President of Shorashim Institute and the Festival for Jewish studies in Kfar Blum, he served as a Shaliach of the Jewish Agency in the US.

Dr. Zohar Raviv - a world-renowned Jewish educator, whose academic and professional experiences span Israel, North America, Europe, South Africa and Australia. Raviv holds a B.A. in Land of Israel Studies from Bar-Ilan University, a Joint M.A. in Jewish Thought and Education from Brandeis University, as well as an M.A. in Near-Eastern Studies and a Ph.D in Jewish Thought and Mysticism from the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor. Zohar Raviv recently assumed the position of Chief Education Officer for Taglit-Birthright Israel, after teaching as an Assistant Professor of Jewish Studies at Oberlin College.

Dr. Yair Caspi – manages the “psychology in Judaism” program, author of the best seller Searching for God.

Yair Lapid – a journalist and writer, born and raised in Tel Aviv. Yair Lapid anchors the Channel 2 Friday night news edition and publishes a weekly column at *Yediot Aharonot* newspaper. His book My Heroes about bible heroes was published on 2008.

Rabbi Shay Piron – an educator and a public figure in the religious Zionist public.

Koby Oz – a singer, songwriter, composer and musical producer. For the last few years Koby Oz has been a part of Alma’s Creative Beit-Midrash. Following his studies at Alma, he published his second solo album *Mizmorei Nevichim*.

MP Rabbi Malkior – the head of Meimad party.

Yair Lipshitz - a Mandel Post-Doctoral Fellow at Scholion, the Interdisciplinary Research Center in Jewish Studies at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. Yair Lipshitz completed his PhD at the Department of Theatre Arts at Tel Aviv University, and was the recipient of the Dan David Scholarship in 2008. Yair's main field of research is the various intersections between theatre, performance and Jewish culture.

Rev. Father David Neuhaus SJ: Patriarchal Vicar of the Hebrew Speaking Community of Latin Patriarchate of Jerusalem

Sheikh Wahl Mahamid: Formerly chairman of the Islamic Council of Jaffa, Wahl Mahamid has a MA in history and works as a teacher and educator at Ironi Yud Beit high-school. Wahl Mahamid performs marriages for the Muslim community, is an arbitrator on family law issues on behalf of the Saria Court in Jaffa and a social activist in Jaffa.