

A TYPICAL DAY AT SBM



9 am – 12 noon Chavruta preparation for shiur given by Rosh Beit Midrash, Rabbi Klapper.

12:15 – 1:00 pm Lunch. Participants enjoy a light meal while debating the day's breaking Jewish and halakhic issues.

1:00 – 2:30 pm Dynamic and interactive shiur with Rabbi Klapper.

2:30 – 6:00 pm Chevrotot and individual preparation. One-on-one teaching opportunities in the community.

6:30 pm Dinner. Participants relax over a hot meal with colleagues while discussing relevant topics from the day's shiur.

8:30 pm Community lectures by Rabbi Klapper / distinguished guest lecturers. Tutor community congregants.



Previously studied at the Summer Beit Midrash...

- * A Halakhic Ethic of Investigative Journalism
- * The Halakhic Credibility of Non-Observant Jews
- * DNA Evidence and Mamzerut
- * The Halakhic Status of Christianity

This Summer: "Informed Consent in Halakhah"

FROM OUR ALUMNI

SBM helped me think about God, Torah, and Judaism more sensitively and carefully. The discussions with other Fellows and Rabbi Klapper compelled me to deepen my emotional involvement and intellectual honesty ... SBM made me relate to Judaism with thought, courage and feeling. I was ... awestruck by Rabbi Klapper's concern for the future of Judaism and clear-eyed love for the Jewish people.

Ava Lieberman, Columbia University

WHY THE SUMMER BEIT MIDRASH?

SBM students learn to see themselves as producers rather than as consumers of Halakhah. They therefore learn to see themselves and their communities as responsible for the manifestation of the eternal Torah in the lives of their communities.

SBM develops leaders. Fellows put their study into practice by teaching and mentoring members of the community while regularly reflecting with Rabbi Klapper and their peers about the process of teaching Torah. SBM, which will enter its 14th year in 2010, has launched significant careers in Jewish education, the Rabbinate, and lay leadership.

SBM catalyzes personal growth through both its challenging formal academic program and its informal conversations and dialogues. Fellows continually engage Rabbi Klapper and their SBM peers in conversations about how what they are studying affects them personally and spiritually.

SBM develops community. Rabbi Klapper and The Center for Modern Torah Leadership maintain contact and support alumni in their ongoing spiritual growth and professional development. Many alumni attend CMTL's annual Rabbis/Educators conference where they renew old relationships and find a chevra with which they can have sophisticated, honest, and completely committed dialogue about the core issues of their professional and religious practice.

"Fellows can ask any questions while developing the tools with which to answer them."



SBM is singular in its successful combination of top level traditional study of rabbinic texts with complete openness to the critiques and insights of other methods, disciplines, and cultures.

SBM is unique its focus on halakhah as a functional legal and political system rather than as a collection of details.

SBM is special in its ability to engage the most difficult theological and ethical issues within halakhah in a strongly supportive and completely committed Orthodox environment.



SUMMER BEIT MIDRASH ALUMNI

are

EFFECTIVE

- ▶ Capable of making the language, values, and practices of Halakhic Judaism meaningful to all Jews, and
- ▶ Capable of making the values, practices and society of Halakhic Judaism react meaningfully to the challenges of modernity.

COURAGEOUS

- ▶ Willing to confront intellectual and moral challenges originating both within and without Torah, and
- ▶ Willing to implement Torah in the face of personal or communal opposition.



As halakhically observant Jews, we live our lives based on a legal discourse we don't really understand... This program brings the student right into the ongoing discussion, not just to listen, but ultimately - with the final project, writing one's own t'shuvah — to participate.

David Kasher, Senior Jewish Educator, Berkeley Hillel

Due to my learning at the Summer Beit Midrash, I developed a new appreciation of the process of Psak Halakhah. I now understand that a posek needs to possess compatible values with the community that he serves in order for halakhah to be a spiritually meaningful system within Modern Orthodoxy.

Noah Cheses, RIETS-YU, Wexner Graduate Fellow