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THE AVI CHAI PRIZE - 5760

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# A Commitment to the Jewish People, Judaism, and the State of Israel

AVI CHAI's primary goals are to encourage mutual understanding and sensitivity among Jews of different religious backgrounds and to increase understanding and appreciation of Jewish traditions, customs, and laws. Some programs in Israel currently supported by AVI CHAI are:

\* **Tzav Pius:** a broad public campaign to encourage mutual understanding among Israeli Jews. The campaign calls for affirmation of the principles: "We respect Jewish tradition; we safeguard democracy." Tzav Pius initiates and supports a variety of educational activities and publicity efforts. Tzav Pius also initiates and supports a variety of educational and media-related projects.

\* **Keshet School of Jerusalem:** now kindergarten through ninth grade, with plans to develop through high school. Keshet represents a learning community of students from religious and secular backgrounds, committed to respect for religious differences. Amutat Keshet has initiated a program to encourage the opening nationwide of additional schools in the spirit of Keshet.

\* **Beit Morasha of Jerusalem:** trains educational leaders, men and women, to address the needs of contemporary Israeli society. The educational program integrates both yeshiva and academic approaches to Jewish.

\* **Yahalom:** a program aimed at bringing together parents and children to study Jewish texts, within the framework of state elementary schools. Yahalom has expanded its scope of activity from schools with significant immigrant populations to those with a more "veteran" population.

\* **Kolot:** an intensive year-long program of Jewish learning for leaders in business, media, and other professions, now in its second year.

\* **Revivim:** a new program to revitalize Jewish studies teaching in state high schools, implemented by the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. The four-year program is offered to exceptional university students, who will receive a Masters degree in Teaching Bible or Jewish Thought.

\* **Tzohar:** rabbis dedicated to revitalising the role of the rabbinate in Israeli society by engaging in meaningful dialogue with the secular world. Tzohar's activity began with halachic weddings adapted for secular couples. For the past two years, Tzohar has been training a cadre of young community rabbis to serve the entire spectrum of Jewish residents in their communities. Recently, Tzohar began developing activities for the general public around the holidays.

\* **Talmudic Institute for Women:** a three-year program of advanced Jewish learning at MaTaN. The program is intended to develop a cadre of female scholars able to reach an advanced level of proficiency in Talmudic and halachic scholarship.

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\* **The Center for Jewish Education in the Public School System:** a group of high schools connected with the Shalom Hartman Institute in a comprehensive framework that includes: a year-long curriculum for principals; a three-year program for training teachers in Jewish studies instruction; and pedagogic support for the teachers in building and implementing Jewish studies curricula in their schools.

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\* **Parshat HaShavuah:** exposes students in state junior high schools to the weekly Torah portion. The curriculum enables pupils to become familiar with perspectives relating to Jewish tradition and culture and to become acquainted with texts from the classical "Jewish bookshelf." The project, piloted in Jerusalem, is expanding to additional areas of the country.

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\* **Likrat:** an Internet-based project under the auspices of the Center for Educational Technology, aimed at fostering dialogue between state and state religious junior high school students, via the joint study of literature and unmediated personal encounters.

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\* **Open Batei Midrash:** a training program implemented in partnership with Beit Midrash Elul. Facilitators and potential coordinators receive intensive training at Elul and accept responsibility to establish open batei midrash for the study of Judaism in their home community.

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\* **AVI CHAI Siddur:** a user-friendly siddur published in two volumes for the home and Shabbat, for Israelis with little exposure to its contents or its prayer.

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\* **Alma Hebrew College:** a liberal arts center in Tel Aviv for the study of Hebrew culture and contemporary Jewish identity.

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\* **Research:** AVI CHAI has commissioned a follow-up to the 1993 Guttman study of "Beliefs, Observances and Social Interaction Among Israeli Jews," to be completed by the end of the year 2000. The Foundation also is funding: a study by the Jerusalem Institute for Israel Studies of professional training programs for charedim, and via a study grant, an examination of the potential relevance of Mizrahi Jewish culture to the challenges facing Israel society.

\* **Sabbaticals:** a new annual program initiated by the Foundation that funds sabbaticals for professionals involved in the Foundation's fields of interest, in order to advance their professional development. Three professionals will be supported during the coming academic year.

AVI CHAI also works to promote its goals through a variety of projects in North America.

# The AVI CHAI Prize in Israel

The AVI CHAI Prize is being awarded for the eighth consecutive year.

The aim of the Prize is to recognize and reward individuals who contribute toward increasing mutual understanding and sensitivity among Israelis Jews of different backgrounds and commitments to Jewish heritage.

The Prize may be conferred on any resident of Israel (not an institution, organization, or any other public body) who has made a significant, ongoing or innovative contribution to creating a bridge between Jews with different approaches to tradition, and whose activities stem from an approach of understanding and appreciation for the various facets of Jewish life.

The Prize Committee is composed of seven people of public stature in Israeli society who represent a broad spectrum of approaches to Jewish tradition.

The AVI CHAI Prize in Israel - 5760 is in the amount of NIS 75,000.

**The AVI CHAI Prize in Israel - 5753** was awarded to **Dr. Daniel Tropper**, initiator and founder of GESHER. GESHER's goal is to bring together students of different orientations to Jewish tradition in order to strengthen their Jewish-Zionist identity and nurture respect between religious and secular.

**The AVI CHAI Prize in Israel - 5754** was awarded to the late **Arieh Ben-Gurion**, founder of the Kibbutz Institute for Festivals and Holidays. The Institute seeks to integrate Jewish tradition within kibbutz life and to foster innovative Jewish cultural models for the kibbutz and all of Israel.

**The AVI CHAI Prize in Israel - 5755** was awarded to **Dr. Zvi Zameret**, Director of Yad Itzhak Ben-Zvi. Dr. Zameret's career and lifestyle provide a personal example of the successful dialogue between Jews of different religious backgrounds, and his actions foster respect for, and knowledge of, Jewish tradition in all sectors of Israeli society.

**The AVI CHAI Prize in Israel - 5756** was awarded to **Rabbi Menachem Fruman** for his many initiatives to increase understanding and sensitivity, and his continuing search for a common language with which to develop respectful coexistence between all sectors of the Jewish people. His approach inspired the formation of Tekoa, where residents with different Jewish lifestyles live and study together with mutual respect and openness.

**The AVI CHAI Prize in Israel - 5757** was awarded to **Ms. Ruth Calderon Ben-Shachar** and to **Mr. Moti Bar-Or** for their joint initiative in the establishment of Beit Midrash Elul in Jerusalem. They developed a communal learning method where men and women of different approaches to religion and tradition learn to study together with respect, cooperation, and tolerance. Today, Elul serves as a model and source of inspiration for communal learning frameworks for religious and secular around the country.

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**The AVI CHAI Prize in Israel - 5758** was awarded to **Professor Avraham Shapira** of Tel Aviv University for his efforts to educate the kibbutz movement and the general public in the Jewish cultural heritage. By virtue of his numerous spiritual, cultural, and educational endeavors, Prof. Shapira has demonstrated that differences of belief and conviction can be bridged and that dialogue between people of different approaches to religion can be fostered.

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**The AVI CHAI Prize in Israel - 5759** was awarded to **Mrs. Tova Ilan** for her diverse educational activities, which culminated in the establishment of the Yaacov Herzog Center for Jewish Studies eleven years ago and her work as its director since its founding. Mrs. Ilan's educational activities represent a model of how to conduct study and dialogue in a multicultural society such as Israel.

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**The AVI CHAI Prize in Israel - 5760** is awarded to **Rabbi Professor David Hartman** at the Bible Lands Museum in Jerusalem.

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# THE AVI CHAI PRIZE COMMITTEE

## **Menachem Fisch, Chair**

*Professor of History and Philosophy of Science, Tel-Aviv University;  
Senior Fellow at the Shalom Hartman Institute for Advanced Judaic Studies*

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## **Eitan Yefenof**

*Professor and Chairman, The Lautenberg Center for General and Tumor  
Immunology, The Hebrew University-Hadassah Medical School*

**The AVI CHAI Prize for 5760 is awarded to Rabbi Prof. David Hartman, in recognition of his educational, philosophical and public activities, especially his founding of the Shalom Hartman Institute in Jerusalem and directing it for 24 years.**

At the Shalom Hartman Institute, Professor Hartman leads a team of scholars and educators in the study and teaching of classical Jewish sources as they relate to issues of contemporary Israeli society and Jewish life. His teachings draw upon the Talmudic and Maimonidean traditions and embrace religious pluralism, both among Jews and in interfaith relations. His work focuses on the centrality of the rebirth of the State of Israel and the challenges as well as the opportunities that Israel's rebirth offers to contemporary Judaism.

Professor Hartman's rare combination of thought and action serve as a model of an uncompromising quest for tolerance, for listening to the other, and for fostering an understanding and appreciation of the Jewish heritage.

**The Prize Committee**

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## Rabbi Professor David Hartman

David Hartman settled in Israel in 1971 after serving as congregational rabbi and spiritual leader for two Jewish communities in North America between 1955-1971.

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In 1953, having studied with the late Rabbi Joseph B. Soloveitchik, Professor Hartman received his rabbinical ordination from Yeshiva University. He continued to study with the late Rabbi Soloveitchik until 1960 while pursuing a graduate degree in philosophy at Fordham University. In 1972 he received his Ph.D. in philosophy from McGill University.

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In 1976, he founded the Shalom Hartman Institute in Jerusalem, which he dedicated in memory of his father, and has served as its director and driving force to this day. The Institute, under his dynamic leadership and inspiration, offers a wide array of activities aimed at strengthening Jewish diversity in Israel.

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Professor Hartman has lectured extensively in Israel and North America. He served as Professor of Jewish Thought at Hebrew University, where he taught for two decades, and was a Visiting Professor at the University of California at Berkley and UCLA, amongst others. In addition, he is a renowned author. Prof. Hartman's endeavors reach beyond the academic field; his influence has also been felt in the Israeli political sphere: from 1977-84 he served as an advisor to the late Zevulun Hammer, Minister of Education, and he has been an advisor to a number of Israeli prime ministers on the subject of religious pluralism in Israel, and the relationship between Israel and the Diaspora.

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David Hartman is married to Barbara; they are the parents of five children.

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