

FMAMS ALUMNI NETWORK NEWSLETTER

✕ What's Happening at FMAMS ✕

Inaugural Spain-Israel Seminar a unique and moving experience...

The first Melton Spain-Israel Seminar ended on May 29 after 10 days of learning and discovery with Haim and twenty-six participants. A detailed blog of the experience by participant Randi Brenowitz can be found at <http://www.fmams.org.il/seminar-snippets/11may-spain.html>. Karen Altschul, IAA member and seminar participant from Boca Raton, FL, beautifully summed up the experience as follows:

"I want to share with you what is going thru my mind as I reenter my little world and try to adjust after two weeks of intense studying.... I feel that I have made many new friends...I am not talking about Randy, Rhoda, Henry, Michael, Judy, etc. but Rabbi Seneor, Abravanel, al-Rahman, the Caliphs, Moses de Leon, Rabbi Bar Yochai, the Sheikh (ch!), Pres. Navon, Rabbi Melchior, and many more. And who could forget our encounter with Donna Gracia and Maimonides? I find that when I am telling family and friends about my trip I can not do so without telling them about these people that you introduced us to (as you know there is a limit to how much they want to hear but I go on anyhow!) and the rich stories that go with each name. You made the history of the Sephardim come alive for me...I felt we were living history for the two weeks we were together and that is what made it such a unique and important experience. Most people back in the real world know so little of this part of our story and I feel so fortunate to have studied it with you."



The next Spain-Israel seminar is scheduled for October 2011 and is sold out. For information on the 2012 Spain-Israel seminars, please contact Rena Ashkenazi at rena_ask@netvision.net.il.

Spotlight on Northern New Jersey

*From the desk of
Frieda Hershman Huberman,
Director, Northern New Jersey Mini-School*

Over the last two years a number of different initiatives have continued to sustain the Florence Melton Adult Mini-School in Northern New Jersey. Although the UJA Federation of Northern New Jersey remained committed to the promotion of our local Mini-School, the economic down-turn and budgetary cut-backs forced federation to reduce funding. Lay leaders and a network of alumni liaisons then reached out to their respective synagogues and Jewish community centers to form a broad-based Melton consortium of 17 congregations and 2 JCCs to partner with UJANNJ to sustain the school.



The same core group of Melton alumni saw the advantages of creating a local alumni association. In addition to helping to sustain the mini-school and provide scholarships, the alumni association would sponsor twice-yearly member events. Basic membership was set at \$54. Higher membership levels provide alumni the opportunity to underwrite community events or provide scholarship to current Melton students. Thus far, sixty-seven have joined the alumni association, raising over \$5,600.

To mark the launch of the alumni association in March, Melton's International Director of Curriculum and Faculty Development, Rabbi Morey Schwartz, led a study session exploring *The Miracle of Purim Revisited* and celebrated the "miracle" of sustaining Melton and Melton's impact. The way I see it, it was an extraordinary first event," said Melton Advisory Committee Co-Chair, Sharon Weiss. Sue Ann Levin, Alumni Association Co-Chair added "I thought last night was wonderful from start to finish. It felt great, looked great...Morey was terrific...It was the perfect way to introduce the Alumni Association, promote Melton, learn and meet."

"Melton is my two hours each week of pure Jewish learning. No homework, no tests, no papers. I just show up and listen to amazing instructors whose knowledge seems endless. My classmates are Hebrew school graduates and Sunday school drop outs, congregation members and unaffiliated Jews, young adults and grandparents. We are a Melton mishpacha (family). We learn and laugh, and then repeat again the following week. It is the highlight of my week."

Amanda Warner, Detroit, MI

The Alumni Network: Boca

Boca Raton Raises \$7726 in local alumni membership funds

To see the value of a local alumni association, take a look at the numbers from Boca Raton, Florida. In the 2010-2011 year, this alumni association had 131 members and raised \$7726 to support and sustain its Mini-School! For a membership breakdown, please see below:

\$36	96 members	\$3456	45% of total
\$72	10 members	\$ 720	10% of total
\$100	18 members	\$1800	22% of total
\$250	7 members	\$1750	23% of total

Members were charged for programs and study sessions (\$15 to \$25) to cover the cost of the teacher and site, and any additional dollars from these programs went into the alumni account. Boca Raton is also developing a new membership form and will list dollar amounts as \$36- \$99, \$100-249, \$250-499, 500+.

For more information about the Boca Raton Alumni Association, please contact Karen Altschul, Local Alumni Association Chairperson at kba5612@gmail.com.

Did You Know...

- *The International Alumni Association (IAA) was formed in 2003 to acknowledge the tremendous impact of the Florence Melton Adult Mini-School and to address the financial challenges associated with its rise as a worldwide leader in adult Jewish education.*
- *Since its inception, IAA growth has resulted in 163 members and over \$79,000 shared with local Mini-Schools.*
- *In 2009, an IAA Advisory Board was created to provide critical input, valuable planning advice, and important guidance on Alumni Network matters.*
- *In 2010, the IAA launched the Sustainer Society Endowment Fund to secure the Mini-School's future as a fundamental part of the initiative to sustain and educate the Jewish people.*

✧ Helpful Links ✧

[Facebook.com](https://www.facebook.com) [Marking Milestones](#)

www.fmams.org.il



✧ IAA Membership Registry ✧

Founders

Abrahamy, Sara (Sala)	Boca Raton	Wallk Katz, Rabbi Amy	Kansas City
Altschul, Karen	Boca Raton	Weinstein, Carole	Richmond/Boca Raton
Ball, Judith	Washington DC	Weitz, Rose & Stephen	Boca Raton
Benjamin, Sandy	Australia	Wiener, Ethelind	Boca Raton
Blechner, Sheryl	Atlanta	Wizer, Dorothy	Boca Raton
Blum, Jenifer	Kansas City	Young, Toni	Wilmington
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Goldman, Sandra	Denver	Reich, Henry & Anne	
Gordon, Jerry	Denver	Septimus, Ed & Susan	Houston
Grynberg, Celeste	Denver	Wasserman, Norton & Rachel	Chgo BJE
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Kasner, Joan	Miami	Harris, Evelyn	Indianapolis
Kasser, Judith	Philadelphia	Haun, Shanna	Kansas City
Katz, Donald	Boca Raton/Columbus	Hoover, Elizabeth	Houston
Krebs, Lana	Atlanta	Huffman, Kurt	Denver
Lerner, Judy	Washington DC	Itkin, Alexis	Washington DC
Lerner, Kim	Broward Cty	Keusch, Suzanne	Northern NJ
Lester, Gloria	Boca Raton	Kleinbaum, Ellen	St Paul
Levine, Herbert	Boca Raton	Krison, Joan	Philadelphia
Litwack, Lawrence z"l	Chgo BJE	Levin, Suzanne	Detroit
Makovsky, Evi Bachrach	Denver	Lichtenstein, Werner	Richmond
Panitch, Susan	Philadelphia	Livingston, Nancy	Denver
Paynter, Tammar	Washington DC	London, Barbara	Philadelphia
Pelavin, Natalie	Boca Raton	Whitcomb, Julie	Denver
Ritzenberg, Rhoda	Washington DC	Zebede, Jaya	Miami
Robey, Eva	Australia	Greenberg, Richard & Eileen	Denver
Schulman, Roberta	Baltimore	Lischkoff, Herman & Dorothy	Atlanta
Schutzman, Norman	Wilmington	Waltzer, Bruce & Miriam	Dallas
Seaman, Dorothy	Boca Raton	Associates	
Shackmaster, Carol	Philadelphia	Benkendorf, Ruby	St. Louis
Sheps, Sheldon	St Paul	Birken, Eric & Marcia	Rochester
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Shonfeld, Marilyn z"l	Chgo BJE	Gruber, Marian	Boca Raton
Simon, Mickie	Louisville	Gutow-Ellis	Houston
Skigen, Vicki	Denver	Kantor, Miriam	
Smigel, Betty	Phoenix	Mills, Sheila	Atlanta
Sobelman, Betty	None	Samuels, Bobbi	Houston
Spain, Ann	Philadelphia	Poleshuck, Victor & Joyce	Rochester
Spellman, Melissa	Chgo BJE	Tepper, Debi & Jerry	Denver
Stahl, Carol Ann	Boca Raton	Weber, Mark & Debbie	Washington DC

✧ FMAMS Sustaining Partners ✧

Silver – minimum \$500 to \$999/year

Gold – \$1,000-\$4,999/year

Platinum – \$5,000/year

Gold

Henri Goettel Independence, MO
Laurie Kaplan Washington, DC
Betty Sobelman Northbrook, IL
Rose Weitz Boca Raton, FL
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✧ 120 Club Donors ✧

(as of 8-31-11)

Donors to the 120 Club will help provide for future learners the unparalleled Seminar experiences provided by the Melton Institute at The Hebrew University of Jerusalem, as well as additional new curricula and resources for the future.

Baker Foundation
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 Helga Weisberger
 Sherrie and Al Weiss
 Rose Weitz

✘ Save the Date ✘

Alumni Kallah

April 20-22, 2010

Chicago, IL

Please save the dates for this unique and inspiring learning opportunity with our Melton scholars and other members of the International Alumni Association.

Details to follow.

2012 Israel Seminar Dates

March 12-22 Altneuland Revisited

April 29-May 10 Spain-Israel

June 25-July 5 Journey through History

July 16-26 Journey through History

Oct. 22-Nov.1 Biblical Insights

For questions or comments about the FMAMS International Alumni Association, please contact Chairperson Rose Weitz at bocarose@comcast.net

