



FROM THE DIRECTOR

I begin my tenure as Director of the Melton Centre with a sense of enthusiasm and great optimism. I extend my personal and our collective gratitude to Professor Marc Hirshman for his three years of fine leadership which saw the Centre expand, intensify and diversify its activities around the world. Marc has agreed to serve as Chair of the Centre's Academic Committee, and I look forward to working with him to realize further Melton's mandate.

The field of Jewish education is enjoying a challenging period of growth due to several recent developments:

- The dramatic expansion in the number of day schools, early childhood programs, college programs and adult education programs around the world.
- The significant number of new programs in teacher training and leadership development.
- The emergence of a broad cadre of sophisticated and committed community leaders involved in Jewish education both in Israel and in the Diaspora.
- A dramatic increase in the funding that has been allocated by the organized Jewish community as well as prominent family foundations around the world to projects in Jewish education.
- New academic programs in Jewish education that have expanded both the network of researchers and the range of research fields.

The Melton Centre is well placed and well qualified to play a leading role in meeting the emerging challenges.

- The Centre's three main areas of concern – Research and Teaching, In-Service and Pre-Service Training Programs, and Educational Projects – complement one another.
- The Centre's student body continues to grow exponentially.
- The Centre's twenty-one faculty members make it the largest graduate program in Jewish education,

enabling our students to take courses in a wide range of fields.

In outlining my vision for the Melton Centre with our faculty, I stressed three key directions to be explored:

1. A process of synergy must be developed that will allow the worlds of theory and practice to shape and inform one another. We will undertake educational projects and training programs, therefore, that further our research agenda, and will engage in research projects that expand our understanding of the practice of Jewish education.
2. We must develop new models of cooperation between the Melton Centre and other institutions. One such initiative, the development of an educational Web Site on Jewish Art for teenagers around the world, has recently been launched by the Melton Centre and the Hebrew University's Department of Jewish Art. This project is conducted in partnership with the Melton Centers at the Jewish Theological Seminary and at Ohio State University.
3. The unique pluralistic and multicultural makeup of the Melton student body must inspire us to create didactic activities that allow participants in our various programs to present their ideas to each other and to discover points of mutual enrichment.

Engaging with these challenges will allow the Melton Centre to grow and prosper in the coming years, and I am confident that we shall continue to make a significant contribution to Jewish education in Israel and around the world.


Howard Deitcher



The Melton Centre's International Advisory Board

Jeffrey Mahemoff
Chair (Melbourne)

Charles Perlow
(Pittsburgh)

Isaac Bloch
(Herzliya Pituach)

Jonathan Brodie
(Washington D.C.)

Peter Joseph
(New York)

Gerald Rothman
(London)

Joseph Steiner
(Toronto)



BRACHOT

- Professor Michael Rosenak on receiving an honorary Doctorate from Hebrew Union College.
- Professor Michael Rosenak on the publication of **On Second Thought; Tradition and Modernity in Jewish Contemporary Education** by Magnes Press (in Hebrew).
- Dr. Tova Hartman Halbertal on the publication of her book: **Appropriately Subversive; Modern Mothers in Traditional Religions** by Harvard University Press.
- Professor Dalia Ofer on the publication of her book, *Women in the Holocaust* (co-authored with Lenore J. Weitzman) in Italian: **Donne nell'Olocausto** by Le Lettre Press; and on the publication of the two volumes she co-edited in honor of Professor Yehuda Bauer: **The Holocaust, the Unique and the Universal**, and **Professor Israel Gutman, the Holocaust History and Memory**.
- Dr. Asher Shkedi and Professor Marc Hirshman, editors of Volume 8 of the Melton Centre's Journal, **Studies in Jewish Education**, entitled **Teaching Classical Rabbinic Texts**.



International Advisory Board meets in Jerusalem

The Melton Centre's International Advisory Board met in Jerusalem at the end of October for three intensive days of discussions. The Board received updates on the Centre's academic activities, educational projects and educator training programs, and met with students in Melton's graduate programs, the Program for Senior Educators from the FSU, and Revivim. The Board also met with Professor Gabriel Motzkin, Dean of the Faculty of Humanities, and Professor Haim Rabinowitz, Rector of the Hebrew University; and Professor Shlomo Avineri addressed the Board on current political and security issues.

Prof. Haim Rabinowitz, Rector of the Hebrew University, addressing Melton's International Advisory Board

Mr. Jeffrey Mahemoff, AO

Jeffrey Mahemoff AO is the recently elected Chairman of Melton's International Advisory Board. Following the Advisory Board meetings, Mr. Mahemoff gave the following interview to Rena Ashkenazi.

How did you become involved with the Melton Centre?

Through Bialik College I became enthusiastic about the Melton Centre from my meetings and dealings with the outstanding faculty members who came out to Australia to assist Bialik. When Ze'ev Mankowitz, then Director of the Melton Centre, asked me to join the International Advisory Board I immediately knew that Melton was a success story that I would like to be a part of. Later, when I had stepped down from my position as President of the College, taking on the Chairmanship of the Advisory Board was a perfect opportunity to fill the gap.

How do you see the role of the Melton Centre in the Diaspora?

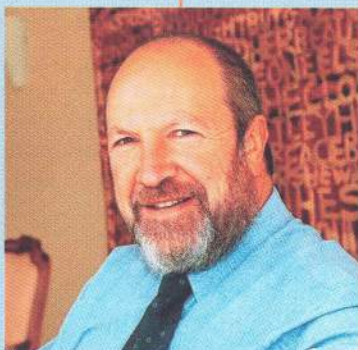
The Melton Centre's role is to provide quality Jewish educators and the Centre does this by training, motivating and inspiring educators as well as developing the programs and materials that are essential. The Melton Centre is a gem in the world of Jewish education and the Advisory Board sees its task as raising the profile of the Centre in the communities in which it serves. We have to make sure that Melton achieves maximum exposure at all levels.

Within the framework of cooperation between Israel and the Diaspora, what is the relationship between the Hebrew University and the Diaspora communities?

It's really a two-way street. Of all the universities in Israel who collect funds from abroad, the Hebrew University in particular gives back directly to the Diaspora, and it does this through Melton. Melton has certainly made a huge impact on Jewish education and those in the Diaspora who have benefited from Melton's programs or graduates are delighted with what the Hebrew University has given them. Most endeavors in the world of Jewish education today have been touched in some way by Melton and that is why it is so important for Jewish communities, worldwide, to support the Melton Centre and it is the Advisory Board's role to get them thinking in this direction.

You've taken over as Chairman of the Advisory Board from Chuck Perlow, the founding Chair. In what direction will you be moving the Board?

It's actually taken a few years to fully understand what the direction is, what is the role of an Advisory Board and where it can add value. It's been progressing steadily and now after these past two days of discussions we have developed a positive action plan. The three areas where we can contribute are: advocacy, counsel, and support. Obviously the Advisory Board cannot help on the academic front. However, we can open doors, promote the interests of the Melton Centre wherever needed, give advice, help with the budget and play a part in "political" issues. It is also our task to make sure that we assist in securing continuing funding. My first meeting as Chairman of the Board took place in February; we have just now met again in October and our next meeting is planned for June. Our decision to meet every eight months is in order to keep the momentum going. The prospects where the Board can be of help are exciting and we do not want to lose the impetus and energy.



Jeffrey is no newcomer to Jewish education, the Hebrew University or the Melton Centre. For 16 challenging years he served as President of Bialik College in Melbourne, leading the school to its current preeminent position in the Jewish Day School movement in Australia. He has been a member of Melton's International Advisory Board since 1998, is a member of the Board of Directors of the Magid Institute for Continuing Adult Education of the Hebrew University, and has recently been appointed to the University's Board of Governors.

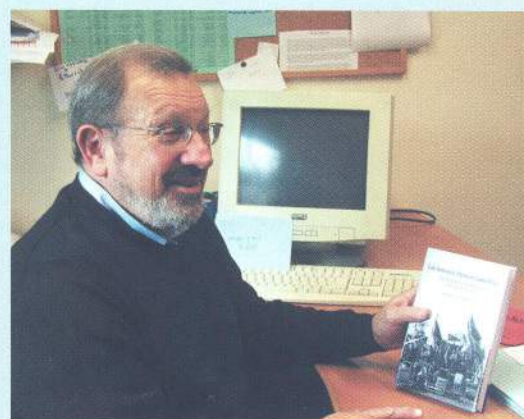
Jeffrey is married to Helen and is the father of Lindy, Joel and Anthony. He is Chairman of the Jewish Museum of Australia, remains on the Board of Bialik College and is currently setting up an Advisory Board for the Centre for Community Child Health at the Royal Children's Hospital in Melbourne. In 2001, Jeffrey was appointed an Officer of the Order of Australia for his "services to education, particularly through the development of Bialik College as a progressive educational institution widely recognized for excellence in all spheres, and to the wider community."

At the Centre

- Prof. Haim Rabinowitz, Rector of the Hebrew University, visited the Centre in order to become better acquainted with the broad range of Melton's programs. In addressing the International Advisory Board of the Melton Centre at the end of October, Prof. Rabinowitz said that since becoming Rector, he had come to recognize the centrality and importance of the Melton Centre as a crucial arm of the University in its efforts to serve Jewish education worldwide.
- In a recent survey of student satisfaction with the quality of services provided by the different Hebrew University departments, the Melton Centre consistently scored between 20% to 30% higher than the average evaluations of other departments in the Faculty of Humanities.
- The tremendous growth of Melton's student body has given rise to a need to augment the Centre's teaching faculty. Professor Alex Pomson from York University, Toronto is a guest of the Centre for the second semester, and joins Dr. Erik H. Cohen from the Department of Education of Bar Ilan University, Alick Isaacs, a recent doctoral graduate of the Department of Jewish History at the Hebrew University, and Dr. Einat Ramon from the Schechter and Hartman Institutes, in offering courses in our M.A. program.
- Within the framework of Melton's Departmental Seminars, Inbar Galili-Schechter presented the findings of her MA thesis entitled: 'Teachers as Interpreters: The Hermeneutics of Teaching Jewish Thought'; Dr. Gabriel Horenczyk presented a paper on: "The Group Within Me: A Proposal for the Conceptualization of Cultural Identity"; and Alick Isaacs presented a paper on "Reading in Sacred Space: Methodology and Jewish education".
- The Melton Centre hosted a lecture in October by Dr. Eli Gottlieb, a Post-Doctoral Fellow at the University of Washington and past Mandel Doctoral Fellowship recipient. Eli talked on: "Cognition, Culture and Epistemic Commitments." He presented findings from his recent studies of religious thinking amongst Israeli children and adolescents that challenge key assumptions of current models of psychological development.
- In November, the Centre co-hosted a forum devoted to Dr. Ze'ev Mankowitz's book: *Life Between Memory and Hope: The Survivors of the Holocaust in Occupied Germany*. Prof. Dalia Ofer characterized the book as a unique blend of sensitive scholarship and acute insight; Prof. Michael Rosenak reflected on the critical implications of the book for Jewish education; and Prof. Israel Gutman filled in the historical background. Ze'ev spoke briefly on the focus of the book: the active role of survivors themselves in determining their own post-war future, to which the chronology of their post-liberation organization bore critical witness. On the basis of his analysis of the key survivor organizations that went into operation sometimes hours after liberation, Ze'ev asserted that the argument that these people were broken, passive and

paralyzed, and therefore easy prey for manipulation and exploitation, needs to be radically revised. From the audience, Dr. Shlomo Shafir, editor of the clandestine Hebrew newspaper "Nitzotz" in Kaufering (a sub-camp of Dachau) and one of Ze'ev's key informants, told of the seminars held in the prisoner dug-outs after long days of oppressive slave labour and of how this prepared the way for Jewish self organization upon liberation.

- Mandel Doctoral Fellowships have been awarded to Katarzyna Reszke (from Poland) who is researching Jewish identity amongst contemporary Polish youth; and Naomi Marmon (from the USA) who is conducting a qualitative study of observant women's experiences with the Laws of Family Purity. Dan Aviv, a Mandel Doctoral Fellow, will be awarded his doctorate in June.



The Revivim Program

Now in its third year, the Revivim Program has over seventy students and has become an important part of the work of the Melton Centre. Professor Richard I. (Yerachmiel) Cohen of the Department of Jewish History succeeded Professor Daniel Schwartz as Academic Head of Revivim, and Dr. Michael Gillis succeeds Dr. Asher Shkedi as Head of Education Studies and Deputy Academic Head.

At the end of the four year program, students will have completed a B.A. and M.A. and have obtained a teaching certificate. Some of the students have opted to take their MA in Jewish Education, which brings them even more into the heart of the life of the Centre.

Revivim has led the Melton Centre to grapple with questions of the place of Jewish learning in the Israeli school curriculum and the place of classical Jewish texts and thought in modern Israeli life and culture. It offers an opportunity to engage with the Israeli education system,

alongside the Centre's interest in Diaspora Jewish education. The Revivim Program is supported by the Avi Chai, Forchheimer, Gelman, Jesselson and Posen Foundations.



Revivim Students

Senior Educators Program

The Senior Educators Program has just completed a successful first semester, culminating in a communal Shabbat on Tu b'Shvat at Neve Ilan in the Judean hills. At the end of a rigorous semester of academic studies and research, the participants presented the proposals for their individual projects to their colleagues and Melton faculty. The first week of the semester break was dedicated to exploring and learning in the field, including, inter alia, a day at Yad Vashem, a cultural tour of Tel Aviv, and workshops at the Jewish Agency's Department of Education. The Program has sixteen participants from the following countries: nine from the U.S.A.; two from Argentina; two from Russia; and one each from Uzbekistan, Chile and Australia. The Senior Educators Program is supported by the Jewish Agency, the Mandel Foundation and the David and Inez Myers Foundation.

Program for Senior Educators from the FSU

The program for Senior Educators from the Former Soviet Union continues to train talented and experienced educators in Russia, the Ukraine and other Russian speaking countries to undertake greater responsibilities and to realize their potential. While in Jerusalem, they study Hebrew, Jewish History, Jewish Thought, Israeli Literature, Contemporary Jewry and much more. Most importantly, they each work on a personal project designed to fill a gap in the educational resources available in Russian. The most recent group of educators presented the following projects: Meditation and Jewish Spirituality; Methods of Quantitative Field Research on Jewish Identity and their Implications for Jewish Education; Building a Curriculum on Israel and Hebrew; Methods of Family Education; Communal Organization (including Education) in Small Communities; Different Historiosophical Approaches to Jewish History and their Utility; and Developing an Israeli Dance Program as a Tool of Jewish Education. The Program for Senior Educators from the FSU is supported by the David and Inez Myers Foundation and the Jewish Agency.



Senior Educators On-Site Seminar

Senior Educators from the FSU and Program faculty



Computer Supported Collaborative Learning Projects

Yad2Yad aims to create dialogue and mutual understanding amongst Jewish-Israeli and Palestinian-Israeli high school students in Israel through a dynamic, interactive Internet site. 15 Palestinian-Israeli schools and 25 Jewish-Israeli schools are currently registered with Yad2Yad.

In addition to the ongoing activities on the site within Israel, an exciting initiative is being planned for April 2003 in which a Jewish school in Israel will communicate with a predominantly Moslem school in the United Kingdom.

The research undertaken by Yad2Yad directors, Drs. Zvi Bekerman and Gabriel Horenczyk, suggests that CSCIE (Computer-Supported Collaborative Intercultural Education) can serve - under certain conditions - as an optimal means for the improvement of intergroup relations, particularly in conflict-ridden areas, where psychological - and sometimes real - barriers often prevent face-to-face intergroup contact. Based on the premise that lack of contact is one of the factors exacerbating the Arab-Jewish conflict in Israel, in a paper that they presented to the International Conference on Information and Communication Technologies in Education, in Badajoz, Spain, in November 2002, they demonstrated how the design and implementation of Yad2Yad meet the conditions that tend to maximize the beneficial outcomes of intergroup contact.

The **Golem** project aims to create a virtual Jewish community over the Internet, made up of high school students from all over the world. Membership continues to grow, and new schools from Australia, Argentina and the UK have recently joined the Golem community.

In a paper delivered to the Conference on Computer Support for Collaborative Learning in Boulder, Colorado, project directors Drs. Horenczyk and Bekerman described and theorized about this computer supported and mediated educational research project which encourages cultural production and sustainability. They characterized Cultural Education and discussed the theoretical rationale of their approach in the context of current theories of identity and cultural construction, multicultural education and computer-supported collaborative learning; as well as reviewing and critically evaluating some of the lessons learned in the first years of the Golem's activities.



◦ (from left to right): Mr. Eliyahu Honig, Associate Vice-President of the Division for Development and Public Relations; Dr. Jonathan Mirvis, FMAMS International Director; Prof. Menachem Megidor, Hebrew University President; Dr. Howard Deitcher, Director of the Melton Centre.



◦ FMAMS International Faculty Seminar participants

Florence Melton Adult Mini-School Institute

Close to six thousand students in sixty-three Schools worldwide are currently enjoying the unique learning experience of the FMAMS, the world's largest pluralist Jewish adult education network. This year sees the launching of three new sites in North America – New Orleans, LA, Albany, NY and Indianapolis, IN. Thanks to support from the Avi Chai Foundation, the new year saw the launching of the curriculum-development phase of the Israel Mini-School Program – CHALOM (Chugei Limmud Al Shem Melton). This unique program will enable Israelis to add meaningful dimensions of Jewish tradition and custom to their lives.

The FMAMS continues to provide ongoing professional support to its directors and faculty. Over fifty site directors and staff members from North America, Israel, Australia, and the United Kingdom came together in Chicago for the Annual Conference for Professional In-Service Training. In December, the Fourth International Faculty Seminar took place in Jerusalem. The theme of the seminar was Conflict and Resolution: In the Texts and On the Street. In January, a group of Mini-School graduates from Sydney, Melbourne, Chicago & Rochester came to Jerusalem for an Israel Graduate Seminar. The group was invited to meet with Hebrew University

President, Professor Menachem Megidor, and Dr. Eliyahu Honig, Associate Vice-President of the Hebrew University's Division for Development and Public Relations.

In keeping with the FMAMS tradition, yet another Mini-School faculty member, Ilana Oppenheimer from Portland Oregon, is participating in the Senior Educators Program.

In-Service Training

- In-service training seminars on the **Nitzanim Program for Hebrew in Early Childhood** were held in London for the Hebrew faculties of the Akiva, Clore Shalom and Clore Tikvah Schools, and for the Rodeph Shalom School in New York. Teachers, directors and coordinators from New York, New Jersey and Baltimore schools participated in a full-day workshop on Nitzanim, organized by the New York Board of Jewish Education, while in Florida a workshop was held at the Jacobson Sinai Academy for the Hebrew faculties of a number of local schools. In light of the successful implementation of the Nitzanim Program in Jewish Agency frameworks in the Ukraine, the Jewish Agency is planning to expand in-service training on Nitzanim to other places in the FSU.
- A two-day introductory seminar for teachers on Melton's **Yad2Yad Project** was held at the Hebrew University at the end of October, in which educators from nine schools participated, most of which subsequently registered in the Program. The Yad2Yad Internet Project aims to forge dialogue and understanding between young students from Jewish and Palestinian Arab backgrounds within Israel.
- The **Jewish Educators Training Institute (JETI)**, in conjunction with the Jewish Agency and the Keren Kayemeth Lelsrael, ran a two-week seminar for sixteen educators from Jewish day schools in Sydney and Melbourne on 'Pedagogical Perspectives in Teaching Contemporary Israel and Judaism'.
- JETI ran a five-day seminar on 'The Land, People, State and Society of Israel' for eighteen members of the Bergen County's **Solomon Schechter Day School's** educational and administrative staff, in February. Each day of the seminar was devoted to a distinct and decisive meaning of Israel to Jewish life in general, and to the life, culture and education of this school's community of parents, teachers and learners. A one-day follow-up seminar is planned before or immediately after the Passover vacation. This seminar was supported by the Joint Fund for Jewish Education of the Jewish Agency.



◦ Australian Day-School Teachers



Academic Committee:

Prof. Marc Hirshman,
Chair

Prof. Elisha Babad,
Head of the School of Education

Dr. Howard Deitcher,
Director of the Melton Centre

Prof. Sergio DellaPergola,
Head of the Institute of Contemporary Jewry

Prof. Rachel Elior,
Institute of Jewish Studies

Prof. Seymour Fox,
Mandel Foundation Program Director

Prof. Galit Hasan-Rokem,
Head of the Institute of Jewish Studies

Dr. Gabriel Horenczyk,
Chairman of the Committee on Research and
Instruction of the Melton Centre

Prof. Menachem Kahana,
Institute of Jewish Studies

Prof. Gabriel Motzkin,
Dean of the Faculty of Humanities

Dr. Avraham Nowershtern,
Institute of Jewish Studies

**We are grateful for the ongoing support of
our friends and benefactors worldwide,
both for specific projects and for our general
programs.**

Samuel Mendel Melton (7"1)

Florence Zacks Melton

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The American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee

The Avi Chai Foundation

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The Canadian Friends of the Hebrew University

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THE HEBREW UNIVERSITY OF JERUSALEM**

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