

THE LONDON MONTEFIORE SEMICHA PROGRAMME

**Training a new generation of rabbis
for the Anglo-Jewish community**

A part-time course designed for future community rabbis, teachers and lay leaders to be followed in parallel with a career or other studies. No fees are charged and a variety of bursaries are available to compensate for loss of earnings and other needs.



www.montefioreendowment.org.uk

JUDITH LADY
MONTEFIORE COLLEGE

The Semicha

Students will be prepared for the award of Semicha Yoreh Yoreh on graduation. The Semicha will be issued jointly by the Montefiore College and by Eretz Hemdah Institute of Advanced Jewish Studies, Jerusalem; and it is expected that the diploma will be signed by the distinguished rabbis, whose names are listed on the right in alphabetical order.

The London Montefiore Semicha Yoreh Yoreh is recognised as qualification for membership of the Rabbinical Council of America.

The Montefiore Endowment aims to create rabbinical leaders who present Judaism pleasantly and without aggression, approaching Halachic decision making with depth of knowledge, whilst adopting a traditional view which stresses the middle way and avoids extremes. It stresses the virtue of inclusivity as well as the value of the world around us – and not merely tolerance of it for the purpose of earning a living. The Endowment believes in the desirability of a broad general education, preferably from university, combined with an uncompromising standard of Halacha and loyalty to Torah values.

- **Dayan Ezra Basri**
LATELY AB BETH DIN, JERUSALEM
- **Rabbi Yosef Carmel**
ERETZ HEMDAH, JERUSALEM
- **Rabbi Zalman Nechemiyah Goldberg**
JERUSALEM
- **Rabbi Dr Abraham Levy OBE**
EMERITUS SPIRITUAL HEAD OF THE SPANISH AND PORTUGUESE JEWS' CONGREGATION, LONDON
- **Rabbi Nahum Rabinovitz**
ROSH YESHIVAH YESHIVAT MAALE ADUMIM, AND ERETZ HEMDAH, JERUSALEM
- **Emeritus Chief Rabbi Lord Sacks Ph.D.**



Students, Ashkenazi and Sephardi, are selected for their solid Jewish learning and also for their secular education – on the principle that study at university level is an enrichment to Torah learning and to effectiveness in Torah leadership. Only candidates who have reached a high standard in Yeshivah and have a broad general education are accepted. They must be committed to the concept of Torah in the everyday world - not in an ivory tower.

The Course's academic year comprises 36 weeks, divided into three terms.

Students are required to attend on average between 7 to 10 hours a week and to devote a roughly equivalent time to preparation and private study. Taught sessions, for which attendance is compulsory, currently take place between 6.30 pm and 10 pm on Wednesdays and Thursdays, plus from 9 am to 2.30 pm on one Sunday a month. Sessions may also take place on up to 2 public holidays a year. Shabbatons, for which accommodation is arranged, are held as appropriate; and during the course students will probably spend a week or longer studying in Jerusalem.

The course is planned to last for just under **4 years plus one or two terms**, depending on progress, for those with good preliminary knowledge.



Rav Kook greets semicha students in Israel



Semicha students visit Rav Eliashiv during study-course in Jerusalem



Chairman of Montefiore Endowment, Lucien Gubbay, at Conference of Sephardi Rabbis



Sir Moses Montefiore Bart., 1881

The Teachers



Rabbi Asaf Mittelman LL.B

Rabbi Asaf Mittelman is the principal lecturer in Yoreh Deah. After spending six years in yeshiva in Israel, Asi served as a paratrooper in the IDF before coming to England. He graduated with distinction from the Montefiore Semicha Course in 2012 and subsequently helped the late Dayan Amor z"l to teach the Course.



Rabbi Harvey Belovski

Rabbi Belovski, Rabbi of the Golders Green Synagogue, also holds a variety of leading positions in the Community. He read mathematics at Oxford and subsequently studied at the Gateshead Yeshivah, where he gained Semicha, and then at the Beis HaTalmud Kollel. He later completed a PhD at the University of London, where he researched Chassidic hermeneutics. Rabbi Belovski lectures on Tefillah and Practical Rabbinics.



Rabbi Daniel Roselaar

Rabbi Daniel Roselaar, the Rabbi of Alei Zion, has a strong background in learning, with a London University MA in Jewish Education. He studied at Yeshivat Har Etzion and is a talmid of both Rav Yehudah Amital z"l and Rav Aharon Lichtenstein. He received the semicha both from the Israeli Chief Rabbinate and from Rav Z N Goldberg. Rabbi Roselaar lectures on Hilchot Shabbat and Niddah.

The teaching of Yore Deah for Semicha is reinforced by the active participation of Eretz Hemdah, Institute of Advanced Jewish Studies, Jerusalem, under the personal direction of Rabbi Yosef Carmel and currently being delivered by Rabbi Ofer Livnat. Eretz Hemdah also delivers the Montefiore Dayanut Course.



Rabbi Yosef Carmel

Rabbi Yosef Carmel is the Rabbinical Dean of the Eretz Hemdah, Institute for advanced Jewish studies in Jerusalem, as well as the Av Beit Din of the Beit Din, "Eretz Hemdah – Gazit". He was a combat soldier in the IDF during the Yom Kippur war as well as the first Lebanon war. He is the author of *Tsofenat Eliyahu*, of *Tzofnat Yeshayahu* and of eight volumes of "Reponsa B'mareh Habazak".



Rabbi Ofer Livnat

Rabbi Ofer Livnat from Eretz Hemdah delivers a lesson pack and an interactive shiur by video-link every week to the Montefiore Semicha Programme to supplement the teaching of the Montefiore College's rabbis; and he also delivers a similar programme to the Montefiore Dayanut Course. Rabbi Livnat spends three consecutive days a month at the Montefiore College in London for more intensive teaching to both courses.

Rabbi Ofer Livnat received his Yadin Yadin ordination from the Chief Rabbinate of Israel. He is currently a staff member of Eretz Hemdah, where he teaches a number of programs for training rabbis and dayanim.



Other Course Teachers

THESE INCLUDE:

Dr Adrienne Baker
Rabbi Jeff Berger
Rabbi Mark Daniels M.A.
Rabbi Israel Elia B.A.
Lucien Gubbay M.A.(Oxon.)
Rabbi Dr. Irving Jacobs
Marilyn Lehrer M.A.(Oxon.), LLAM
Rabbi Reuven Livingstone
Rabbi Amrom Nemeth
Prof. Stefan Reif

Occasional Lecturers of Particular Distinction

THESE INCLUDE:

Dayan Ezra Basri
FORMER AB BETH DIN, JERUSALEM

Rabbi Dr. Abraham Levy OBE
HON. PRINCIPAL OF THE JUDITH LADY
MONTEFIORE COLLEGE AND EMERITUS
SPIRITUAL HEAD OF THE SPANISH AND
PORTUGUESE JEWS' CONGREGATION

Rabbi Joseph Dweck
SENIOR RABBI OF THE S&P
SEPHARDI COMMUNITY

Chief Rabbi Ephraim Mirvis

Emeritus Chief Rabbi Lord Sacks

During the Course, students are also exposed to a variety of visiting lecturers for short periods, both rabbinic and academic, as well as to lay leaders with prominent positions in the community

The Curriculum

Study of Halacha is the core of the course. Its teaching of Yoreh Deah is intended not only to give students knowledge of Melicha, Basar Bechalab and Ta'aruvot, but also to transmit the essential skills needed to approach the Rishonim and the Shulchan Aruch. For Shabbat, Niddah and other areas of practical Halacha, learning is also very much text based; but greater focus is given to what rabbis need to know in order to advise on the more common Shailot that will come up in the course of their careers.

In addition to traditional Halachic learning, an increasing attempt will be made to provide guidance on the wide spectrum of issues arising as the result of the huge technological changes experienced in modern times. To address this challenge, the curriculum incorporates a section on contemporary Halachic topics such as fertility, end of life, Shabbat in automated surroundings, business in the modern marketplace, e-commerce and crossing time zones.

It will also aim to provide the tools necessary for approaching the further questions that will arise in future.

Details of Semicha Curriculum

Halacha

- Bishul Akkum and Chalav Akkum
- Melicha & Dam
- Basar Behalab
- Ta'aruvot
- Niddah
- Shabbat Umoadium
- Contemporary halachic shailot
- Avelut
- Kiddushin and Edut
- Contemporary Issues

Tanach

- Ethics of Leadership:
Isaiah, Jeremiah & Ezekiel
- Sefer Tehillim
- Yonah

Chagim

- Insights

Tefillah

- History and Analysis of Prayer

Midrash

- Significance of Midrash

General Topics

- Spiritual Coaching:
How to deal with Biblical Criticism, Torah and Science, Ethics.

Practical Rabbinitics

- Weddings and funerals
- Counselling:
Marriage, Bereavement
- Public Speaking:
Theory, composition, practice
- Voice Training
- Rabbinic Leadership

History

- The rabbinical view of history
- The Babylonian Exile
- The coming of Islam
- The Mediterranean World
- Spain and the Conversos
- Northern Europe:
the Church and the Crusades
- Poland and Lithuania
- The Ottoman Empire and
the Alliance Israelite
- The European Enlightenment
- development of Torah
- The Anglo-Jewish Community.

Relationships

- Emergence of Christianity
and Islam
- Islamic fundamentalism today
- Relations between:
Muslims, Christians & Jews
and between Jews & Jews

The Montefiore Endowment



The Montefiore
Synagogue, Ramsgate



The Montefiore
Mausoleum, Ramsgate



Letter from the Ger Rebbe to
Sir Moses Montefiore 1845



A rare silver-gilt rimon,
Montefiore Collections 1771



Letter to Sir Moses from
a scribe asking for work

The Montefiore Endowment was established in 2007 as a charitable company limited by guarantee and governed by independent trustees. Among the aims set out in the governing instrument of the Charity are:

The promotion of the advanced study of the Holy Law as revealed on Sinai and expounded by the revered Sages of the Mishna and the Talmud; and teaching the benefit of tolerance, mutual understanding, social harmony and integration in accordance with the teachings of the Holy Law as expounded by the revered sages of the Mishna and Talmud and as demonstrated in the life of Sir Moses Montefiore.

In addition to owning and maintaining the Synagogue and Mausoleum at Ramsgate, together with extensive Montefiore collections of manuscripts, books, ritual silver and textiles deriving from them, the trustees emphasise the educational aspect of their work. This includes:

- **Running the Judith Lady Montefiore College** with its:
 - London Montefiore Semicha Programme
 - Montefiore Dayanut Programme
 - Gap-Year Scholarship Programme: based in Jerusalem at a yeshivah and a seminary for carefully selected school leavers with leadership potential
- **Supporting the Montefiore Kollel** at Sha'are Tefillah, Manchester
- **Supporting a variety of other organisations** with similar aims
- **Sponsoring M.Phil/Ph.D candidates** as well as research and publication in advanced Torah learning
- **Running lay-leadership programmes**

For further details see www.montefioreendowment.org.uk



Objects from the collections

UK and Dutch participants at the Montefiore Dayanut Course opening, November 2016

The Montefiore College

The Judith Lady Montefiore College was re-opened in London in 2005 as a centre for higher Torah education, with Rabbi Dr. Abraham Levy OBE as its Honorary Principal, and is registered with the Department for Education and Skills. It occupies premises attached to the Spanish and Portuguese Jews' synagogue at Lauderdale Road, Maida Vale, London W9.

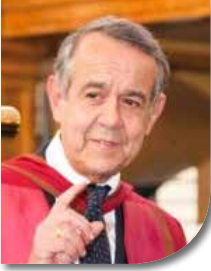
In January 2006, the College opened its first part-time Semicha Programme to train future rabbis for the Anglo-Jewish community. Building on its success, further courses follow at four-yearly intervals with entry at year-one and year-two of each course. The College's teaching of Yoreh Deah is strengthened

by the active participation of Eretz Hemdah Institute of Advanced Jewish Studies, Jerusalem. This is the only such structured course in the United Kingdom.

The unique Montefiore Dayanut Course commenced in November 2016 and uses the latest internet techniques to enable rabbis from Australia, Canada, Germany, Hong Kong, Israel, the Netherlands, Turkey and the U.S.A. to participate in the learning together with rabbis from the UK. The teaching is delivered by Eretz Hemdah; and graduates will receive Eretz Hemdah's semicha 'Yadin-Yadin for the Diaspora'.



Graduates from leading UK universities at Montefiore Leadership Course, Jerusalem 2015



The Honorary Principal

Rabbi Dr. Abraham Levy O.B.E.

Emeritus Spiritual Head of the Spanish and Portuguese Jews' Congregation London, is actively involved in the running of the College and its associated Kollel.

Rabbi Levy was born in Gibraltar and attended Carmel College. He took his B.A. degree at Jews' College and his doctorate at University College London. Ever an educational innovator, he founded the Young Jewish Leadership Institute which served as the model for many of the adult educational programmes current today, and then went on to create the flourishing Naima Jewish Preparatory School.



The Chairman

Lucien Gubbay

Chairman of trustees of the Montefiore Endowment, participates actively in the day-to-day administration of the College and in the planning of its courses.

Born in Argentina and educated in Manchester and at Balliol College, Oxford, Lucien Gubbay then served in the Royal Air Force in Germany. He is a former president of the Board of Elders of the Spanish & Portuguese Jews' Congregation and a trustee of LSJS (formerly Jews' College). A consulting engineer by profession, he has lectured and written extensively on religious history and related subjects, and is an Honorary Research Fellow of University College London.

Levantar Backing Cloth, early 18th century,
from the Montefiore Collections.





Eretz Hemdah Institute for Advanced Jewish Studies, Jerusalem

Eretz Hemdah was founded in 1987 by Rav Moshe Ehrenreich and Rav Yosef Carmel under the presidency of HaGaon Maran Harav Shaul Israeli zt"l to fulfil a perceived need both in Israel and in the diaspora to train a new generation of leading Torah scholars, leaders with broad horizons who will work on uniting the nation through active rapprochement.

It runs an intensive and comprehensive seven-year programme to prepare students for certification as dayanim and rabbis of cities, and to serve as Ramim (lecturers) and deans on college level and graduate level yeshivot. Its certification as a dayan is officially recognized as a Ph.D. equivalent.

Eretz Hemdah's areas of activity include a Beit Midrash, spreading Torah, 'Eretz Hemdah Gazit' Rabbinical Court for Monetary Matters. For further details see www.eretzhemdah.org

Apply with brief CV to:
administrator@montefioreendowment.org.uk

**The Montefiore Endowment,
2 Ashworth Road, London W9 1JY**

**For further details see website,
www.montefioreendowment.org.uk**

LSJS

London School
of Jewish Studies

The London School of Jewish Studies

The London Montefiore Semicha Course is run in association with the London School of Jewish Studies to enable students to benefit from community-wide facilities.

LSJS is a world-class centre of Jewish scholarship and teaching, which with its academic degrees, teacher-training programmes, and life-long learning courses inspires our community with a love of Jewish learning and practice through study of the great texts and ideas of Judaism. For further details see www.lsjs.ac.uk



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