

| | | | | | |
|----------------------------------------------------------|---|--------|-----------------------------------|------------|------------|
| 10.78x19.88 | 1 | עמוד 8 | the jerusalem post - in jerusalem | 20/06/2014 | 43023541-2 |
| מכון שכתר למדעי היהדות ד"ר עינת רמון ד"ר דורון ב - 84920 | | | | | |



Graduating with tolerance

The Schechter Institute of Jewish Studies last Tuesday held its graduation ceremony alongside the 17th-annual awarding of the Liebhaber Prize for the Promotion of Religious Tolerance in Israel. Prize recipients this year were singer Ehud Banai and Dr. Micah Goodman of the Hebrew University and the Ein Prat Beit Midrash.

The ceremony awarded master's degrees for specializations in family and community studies, Jewish arts, and gender and Jewish studies, as well as a new specialization in spiritual accompaniment according to Jewish thought, led by Einat Ramon.

Asked about the specific lines of study, Dean Doron Bar explained that besides being an academic institution, Schechter emphasizes a "family atmosphere," enabling people who already have a professional career to fulfill their desire to continue their studies. The programs facilitate studying once or twice a week – allowing students to continue to work – and open up new horizons with high academic standards. Students come from all over the country, including Eilat and the Golan Heights, and represent all parts of society – religious, traditional and secular alike.

"In a total departure from the norm at universities, here we see a profound interest in humanities and Jewish studies that only grows each year," noted Bar.

Asked how the Liebhaber Prize, which was launched at the institute following the assassination of prime minister Yitzhak Rabin, influences society to become more tolerant, recipient Goodman said it was more the "buzz" created by the award that could help. "The prize and the press reports on it... initiate a discourse that people hear about. It makes a slow but important difference that broadens, each year, the attention to the issue – which is the best way to promote it."



Liebhaber Prize recipients Ehud Banai (left) and Dr. Micah Goodman. (Avi Hayoun)