

PLURALITY  
EDUCATION  
FUTURE  
TRADITION  
SIONISM  
DIALOGUE  
PLURALITY  
CONTINUITY  
LEADERSHIP



Seminario Rabínico  
Latinoamericano



Marshall T. Meyer

## • THE SEMINARIO IN FIGURES

Thousands of people have studied at the Seminario during its first 50 years. The following figures reveal the scope of the Seminario's work:



# HISTORY OF THE SEMINARIO

The Seminario Rabínico Latinoamericano was established in 1962 under the leadership of Rabbi Marshall T. Meyer and a group of rabbinical and community leaders. It is the only Jewish center in Ibero-America dedicated to both academic and spiritual Jewish education. It is one of the most important educational, cultural and religious Jewish centers in the world.

## • MARSHALL T. MEYER, FOUNDER OF THE SEMINARIO

Marshall T. Meyer Z"l was born in Brooklyn, New York, USA, in 1930. He graduated from the University of Darmouth in 1952, and he received his rabbinical ordination, in 1958, from the Jewish Theological Seminary of America.

He pursued studies in the Hebrew University of Jerusalem in 1955 and 1956, and he received his PhD on Philosophy of Religion from Columbia University and Union Theological Seminary.

In 1959, with his wife Naomi, he moved to Buenos Aires and initiated a period of great changes and deep renovation within the local Jewish community.

He became the Assistant Rabbi at Congregación Israelita de la República Argentina, where he directed the youth activities of the congregation, founding and directing 'Machane Ramah', a summer camp similar to the American model, attracting through it thousands of young people to a humanist, committed and revitalized Judaism.

In 1962 he founded and directed the Seminario Rabínico Latinoamericano --which today carries his name-- the first and only of its kind in South America, where dozens of rabbis from all over the world were ordained. He served as the Rector of the Seminario from its foundation until his return to the United States in 1984.

In the formation of the curriculum for the Seminario's Rabbinical School, which he developed together with then Vice-Rector of the Seminario, Rabbi Mordejai Edery Z"l, he considered essential not only the study of traditional Jewish texts --such as the *Torah* and the *Talmud*-- but also subjects that would afford the future rabbis an integral education about the human condition and its circumstances. Therefore, subjects as pastoral psychiatry, psychology and education were also included in the curriculum, while in the classrooms critical thinking and an interest for the current societies and geopolitical events were encouraged.

The Seminario aimed to educate a kind of professional fully committed with his circumstance and environment, formed and informed, able to carry the message that modern Conservative Judaism had: a religious Judaism --dynamic, committed and involved with the current issues.

Marshall --as he liked to be referred-- used to teach that one should have on one hand the *Torah* and on the other the newspaper with local news.

This ideological and educational proposal soon had an impact on many young people with spiritual and intellectual interests who, until then, didn't have a space to find what they needed.

Little by little, the great affluence of students from diverse places and the high demand of the communities to count on leaders educated with this model, started to modify the demography of the institutions throughout the continent, which, since those years and until the present, have been nourished by teachers and Rabbis graduated from the Seminario.





## • RELIGIOUS LEADERSHIP PROGRAMS

We educate spiritual leaders who accompany people through all stages of their lives, in their path of spiritual and Jewish development.

### » Rabbinical Education

#### **The Abraham J. Heschel Rabbinical School**

The intensive studies program of our Rabbinical School offers personal growth and spiritual development, culminating in the rabbinical ordination of its students, for the practice of a religious leadership of excellence in the Jewish people. Since the foundation of the Seminario, more than 100 Rabbis have received their *Smicha* – Rabbinical ordination – in our house of studies, and today serve as spiritual leaders in synagogues, schools and institutions of Jewish communities in Latin America and throughout the world.

### » Cantorial and Hebrew Music

#### **teachers' education**

#### **Bet Asaf Institute**

*Chazanim* – liturgical cantors- and Hebrew music teachers are trained to serve professionally in Jewish communities of Latin America and the world.

Our Bet Asaf Institute is the only educational center for the training of *chazanim* in the region and its graduates are accepted as members of the Cantors Assembly.

### » Shatz

This program prepares young people and adults who wish to lead and guide their communities as *Shlichei Tzibur* –synagogue leaders- in the activities related to daily *tefillah*, Shabbat, Jewish life cycle and the annual cycle of festivals.

### » Klei Kodesh – Sacred professions

With the aim of assuring continuity, specific programs are offered for training in the sacred professions every community needs to develop a full Jewish life: *Mohalim* for the practice of *Brit Milah*, *Sofrim* for writing *Sifrei Torah*, *Tefillin* and *Mezuzot*, *Mashgichim* to teach and control Kashrut, and *Shochatim* to the task of providing the community with kosher meat.



## • EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS

We train professionals who combine the most advanced pedagogical methodology with the feeling and deep meaning of Jewish education so that they are able to transmit Jewish tradition in a meaningful, vital and dynamic way.

### » **Postgraduate Jewish Studies** **(Sao Paulo, Brazil)**

In association with the UniSal – Universidad Salesiana, a *lato sensu* program of Postgraduate Jewish Studies is carried on in Sao Paulo. This program, aimed for a general public, interested in deepening their knowledge in Jewish studies, allows for taking in situ or virtual courses in Portuguese.

### » **Degree in Jewish Studies and Education** **Abarbanel Institute of Jewish Studies and Education**

Our Abarbanel Institute responds to the deep and constant need to provide the educational Jewish network in Latin America with *morim*, teachers and Zionist educators, fully identified and committed with Judaism in all its dimensions: Hebrew language, culture, history, values and principles, folklore,

art, music, dance, Jewish traditions and the centrality of the State of Israel.

### » **BA in the University of Haifa**

The University of Haifa has signed an agreement with the Seminario that allows graduates from our Abarbanel Institute to take a year-long course of studies at the University of Haifa in Israel leading to the BA from this world-renowned Israeli university.

### » **Young Morim**

This two-year long course of studies trains young people so that they can work as educators in Jewish Studies. The program combines academic studies with work in schools and other educational fields. Students are young people from 16 to 27 years old with previous experience in non-formal education.



### » **Young Shirah Morim - Musikali**

This educational area gathers young people from 15 to 25 years old with musical talents and training who wish to acquire Jewish musical knowledge and become musical congregational leaders or specialists in Jewish music for youngsters.

### » Exchange Programs

Together with Universities of the United States and Universities of Latin America, short exchange programs are offered for young American students, where they study subjects related to their careers, History of Judaism and Latin American Jewish Literature, as well as Spanish and Hebrew languages.

### » Visiting Professors

The Seminario invites an average of ten prestigious academicians a year in order for them to teach classes and give lectures in Santiago de Chile, Sao Paulo and Buenos Aires. In the last years, we had the presence of professors such as David Golinkin, Eitan Chikli, Kenneth Stow, Charles Simon, Joel Roth, Richard Freund and Burton Visotzky, among others.







## • PROGRAMS FOR JEWISH EDUCATION

### Center for Innovation and Development in Jewish Education (its Spanish acronym being CIDEJ) 'Rudy Pincus Z"L'

The CIDEJ, as its name suggests, is focused on innovation and development of Jewish education.

In this regard, it provides services to different types of constituencies. It supports training courses for youth leaders; preparation courses for *Bnei* and *Bnot Mitzvah* (*Talmud Torah*) in communities; the Jewish Schools Network in Latin America, through virtual platforms; and the adult population, through programs of continuous Jewish education.

#### » TALI

In conjunction with TALI Education Fund of the Shechter Institute of Jerusalem, the Pincus Center develops in Latin America a program of counselling for schools, publications of educational material and teacher training. TALI, Hebrew acronym for "Enriched Jewish Studies" - תגבור לימודי יהדות - provides in Israel a pluralist program in Jewish Studies to dozens of thousands children in 260 public schools and kindergartens, and, from the Seminario, it's now available in all Latin America.

#### » Talmud Torah Forum

This forum promotes training spaces for *Talmud Torah* (preparation courses for *Bnei Mitzvah*) teachers and the generation of specific educational materials.



#### » Shababa Latam

Together with the 92<sup>nd</sup> Street Y and the Shababa Network from USA, Shababa Latam offers, through music and art, a program to bring families with children in kindergarten and elementary school closer to *Tefillah* and Jewish sources.

#### » Madrichim Schools

Courses, seminaries and educational materials for Youth Leaders Training are developed. Also the Seminario offers ongoing assessment and support for youth activities departments.

#### » Center for Women Chava Woman, a source of life

This program provides a space for Jewish women, and it comprises different initiatives: study and training through an open *Beit Midrash*, support in cases of emotional vulnerability, training of balaniot. It is also now developing the project "*Mikveh* for everyone".





## • LEADERSHIP PROGRAMS

### Center for Leadership Development

This center provides training programs for community leaders, professionals, volunteers, young people and adults, with constant counseling in institutional strategy and management. Likewise, assessment in institutional development is offered for Jewish organizations.

#### » My Camp Abroad

This project encourages young leadership through a training program which has as a corollary the experience of an internship with guided training during a two-month period in summer camps in the USA.

The participants get prepared for the internship, several months prior to the trip, in their home towns. Upon their return home from the camp experience, they are committed to work, as volunteers or professionally, in their communities and institutions, so that they can put into practice what they have experienced and learned.

#### » Iozmá

This program is carried out in conjunction with *Marom Olami* and *Arymax Foundation* of Brazil. A select group of young people from

different countries are trained in leadership and community building for two years, in classroom and virtual courses, with meetings in Buenos Aires, Santiago de Chile, Jerusalem and Los Angeles.

#### » Community Assessment

The staff of the Seminario is permanently in contact with communities and institutions, providing assessment in diverse areas that contribute to community growth and development.

#### » Kshirim – Connecting Talents

This counselling service for communities and institutions, in subjects of strategy, management and staff search and selection, allows for the strengthening of institutions and makes the best human resources

available for each job and institutional profile, including Rabbis (through the Placement Commission) and Cantors.

#### » Permanent Training for Volunteers

The Seminario offers virtual and classroom classes and courses, *shabbatonim* (weekend retreats), to train volunteers in the wide range of topics related to organizational management and Judaism. Through this space, people are motivated to share experiences with peers and joint work is promoted.



Die heilige Schrift  
des  
Alten und Neuen Testaments.

Wie solche von  
**Herrn Doctor Martin Luther Seel.**  
Im Jahr Christi 1522. in unsere Deutsche Mutter-Sprach zu übersehen  
angefangen. Anno 1534. zu End gebracht.

Der ersten Uebersetzung  
mit den Summarien Herrn Johann Samberti Seel.  
auch mit dem

**Heilsalgen und Schreiden Nutzen über alle Capitel**  
des Herrn D. Salomon Glasius Seel.

Alles mit einer neuen und klaren Kupfer-Druckung nach herrschenden geschafften  
Fertigkeit. und andern ansehnlichen Nutzen. Item durch hundert Illustrationen und Anmerkungen  
in dem Text. Item von Herrn Seb. Heinsius den 1600. Jahren zu Ende  
hervorgebracht.

Über diese hat nun schon der Sel. Herr Luther mit seiner Gelehrsamkeit und mit dem in allen Ehren  
gewonnenen Ruhm und Namen sehr gearbeitet. In welchem Buch bei unserm Buch. Herr Doctor Samberti Summa  
des Alten und Neuen Testaments von der heiligen Schrift. Item von Herrn Seb. Heinsius den 1600. Jahren zu Ende  
hervorgebracht. Item von Herrn Seb. Heinsius den 1600. Jahren zu Ende hervorgebracht.

Zum ersten Druck  
**Herrn Johann Michael Salverns.**

Im Jahr 1600. in der Stadt Frankfurt am Main.





## • RESEARCH

### » **Center for Studies of Religion, State and Society (CERES)**

Through the CERES, the Seminario is one of the research centers for the National Scientific and Technical Research Council (CONICET) of Argentina, which carries out research on a wide range of academic and scientific topics.

### » **Rut Project and Center of Vital Statistics**

'Rut Project' is a multi-annual, qualitative and quantitative research project about the demographic reality and tendencies in the phenomenon of the processes of conversion to Judaism in Latin America.

The 'Center of Vital Statistics', in association with the Latin American Rabbinical Assembly, aims to consolidate an electronic data base with personal and family information, with facsimile copies of documents of the Jewish life cycle.

### » **Elie Wiesel Institute for Human Rights**

With the support of the Peace Nobel Prize, the Institute Elie Wiesel Z"L for Human Rights was reopened. This center, located at the Seminario, participates actively in a coalition of institutions that address the topic of Human Rights and Religion.

### » **Weil Center**

At the 'Félix José Weil' Center, the contribution to Latin America Jewish life of Central European immigrants in the 20th Century is studied. It's currently forming a center of documentation with relevant historic material, and studying the work of Central European Rabbis exiled in Latin America, their contribution to Latin American Judaism and the creation of Jewish-German communities in the continent.

### » **Library**

The Seminario's Library is the most complete and updated library in Jewish Studies in all Latin America. It currently holds more than 65.000 volumes.



## • EXTENSION AND THE COMMUNITY

### **Torah Lishmah Extension**

Educational programs that draw people to the study and exploration of Sacred Jewish Sources



### » **Franz Rosenzweig Institute**

This center offers open conferences to the community about various topics, as well as film series with debate, and short courses intended for specific audiences, both in the Seminario as in associate institutions.

### » **Yeshivah – Beit Midrash Patuach**

In different cities of Latin America, this program intended for young people and adults, is developed encouraging the study of traditional texts of *Torah*, *Talmud* and Jewish Thought from a modern perspective, with the goal of strengthening their Jewish identity, employing the millenary technique of studying with a *Chevruta* (study-mate).

## • INTERFAITH DIALOGUE



The Seminario promotes and participates in the process of coming close, dialoguing with and working together with all religious traditions.

Inheriting the tradition of Abraham J. Heschel Z"l and of Rabbi Marshall T. Meyer Z"l, the Seminario takes an active part in the interfaith dialogue and it leads projects of approach and mutual understanding. In this way, it inspires joint work with spiritual leaders of all religious traditions in every country in Latin America. This is carried out through the Center for Interfaith Dialogue and *Makom* (the Center for Jewish-Muslim Dialogue).

## • PUBLICATIONS

Publications are edited in Spanish, Portuguese and Hebrew, in order to encourage personal and institutional growth in Jewish communities.

### » **Majshavot**

The *Majshavot* magazine, for more than 50 years, has been introducing intellectual novelties from the Jewish world and carries our Latin American voice to other worldwide centers of Jewish thought. Since 2014, the complete collection is available online at [www.majshavot.org](http://www.majshavot.org)

### » **Torah from the Seminario**

A weekly newsletter about Torah in Spanish that reaches over 50,000 people in the world.

### » **Sidurim and Machzorim**

The Seminario offers prayer-books for the whole community. Since more than 50 years, it edits a *Sidur* and a *Machzor* with Spanish translation and commentaries from Rabbis Mordejai Edery Z"l and Marshall T. Meyer Z"l.

### » **Educational Flyers – Aseh Lecha Rab**

'Tradition and Change' is a series of educational flyers with texts, traditions, *halachot* and activities to take home and read with the family about Jewish Calendar's celebrations.

### » **Latin Birken**

This publication consists of texts, songs, traditions, *halachot* and guides for celebrating the Shabbat and Holidays at home. A modern edition, with complete phonetics and explanations.

### » **Latest Publications**

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#### • **An approach to the book of Leviticus | Vaikrah**

A book about contemporary reflections from Judaism and Christianity, co-published with the General Directorate of Worship of the Government of the City of Buenos Aires.

#### • **Ehie. A Kabbalah for tomorrow.**

Co-published with communities NBI from Chile and NCI from Uruguay.

#### • **Ruach Hadarom, co-published with the Cantors Assembly.**

A book that reflects the Latin spirit of *tefillot*, with sheet music and articles from rabbis, educators and, particularly, from cantors, which shows the wide influence of graduates from the Seminario in communities around the world.

#### • **The Vatican Council II and the Jews.**

A book with academic essays and testimonies of leaders from both religions in the Interreligious Dialogue, which, starting with a preface by Pope Francis, encourages to reflect and to keep making a better world together.



## • COMMUNITY SERVICES

We provide rabbinical and spiritual support and guidance to members of the Jewish community and of the whole society, in different stages of life.



### » **Community Rabbinical Assistance**

Through *Lev el Lev* (heart to heart) program, our rabbis practice *bikur cholim* (visiting patients in hospitals and health centers) *bikur zkenim* (assistance in retirement home) and support is given to Jewish inmates from penitentiaries in Buenos Aires.

### » **Rabbinical Bet Din**

The Rabbinical Court permanently deals with *hallachik* issues regarding people's status, both in their personal and family lives –marriages, divorces, etc.- as well as ritual issues such as dietary laws of Kashrut, family purity and *Mikveh*, among others.

### » **Introduction to Judaism Program**

A course of Introduction to Judaism is permanently offered to accompany those people who wish to embrace the Jewish faith and become part of the Jewish People, from their first approach until the moment of their *Bet Din* and conversion.

## • CHILE HEADQUARTERS

Since 2012, new headquarters of the Seminario function in Santiago de Chile, with the support of the *Vaad HaRabanim* of Chile, the local communities and the Hebrew Institute, with the aim of providing the possibility of taking courses (*Torah Lishmah*), and pursuing formal academic studies, improving the training of *morim* and opening the doors to pre-rabbinical courses.

This headquarters also has an open *Yeshivah* for men and women who wish to study Jewish sources in the traditional way and, from there, educational programs are provided to the Chilean community and nearby countries.

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## • BRAZIL HEADQUARTERS

From the Seminario's headquarters in Sao Paulo, educational programs of our institution are offered to the Portuguese speaking community. In association with the UniSal – Universidad Salesiana (Brazil) a lato sensu M.A. in Jewish Studies is carried out. This program allows to course graduate Jewish studies in classroom and virtual modalities in Portuguese.

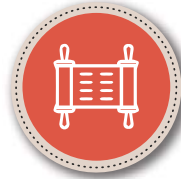
Since 2016, the Abraham Joshua Heschel Rabbinical School has a program of studies for rabbinical training functioning in Sao Paulo.

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# SUPPORT THE SEMINARIO!

*Pick a passion and find a comfortable level of participation!*

You can choose to give to a specific department, program, or initiative, or you can make a general donation. If you have questions or would like to speak to someone regarding a gift, please contact us at **[friends@theseminario.org](mailto:friends@theseminario.org)**



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