



Where Inspiration Meets Innovation

**A Proposal for Supporting:
The Gaon Rabbi Eliyahu Synagogue**



נעים ומה טוב מה הנה"

"יחד גם אחים שבת

133 תהלים

"How Good and How Pleasant it is for
Brethren to Dwell Together in Unity"

Psalms 133

July 2010

A Proposal for Supporting the *Gaon Rabbi Eliyahu* Synagogue

Strengthening Jewish Identity and Jewish Community on Campus

The University of Haifa is a young and dynamic university known for its outstanding liberal arts education, cultural diversity and emphasis on innovation. As an Israeli academic institution, the University of Haifa has an important role to play in advancing the knowledge of Jewish history, thought, civilization, and education, and in **servicing the diverse religious and cultural needs of its Jewish students and faculty members.**



The New Gaon Rabbi Eliyahu Synagogue: Opening its Doors to All Jewish Students



The University has allocated a beautiful space within the new **Hatter Student Center** for its **new campus synagogue** - **an inviting, spiritual place of worship** that will bring together Jewish students, **regardless of their background or level of observance.** All Jewish students at the University - **including secular, non-affiliated, new immigrants,**

foreign students and observant -- will have an opportunity to participate in a host of Jewish holiday observances, celebrations, prayer services, and social and networking opportunities.

The new campus synagogue will create a 'home away from home' for Jewish students on campus, offering a wealth of educational, spiritual and social programs, in a pluralistic atmosphere where students can feel safe and seek guidance on variety of religious and personal issues.

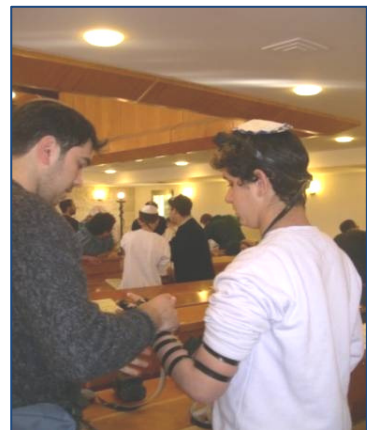
The **New Gaon Rabbi Eliyahu Campus Synagogue** will fulfill the following religious, educational, cultural and social functions:

Religious Sanctuary

The Synagogue will offer a holy place of Jewish worship for the University's student body and faculty, as well as visitors and tourists. The synagogue will have a dedicated religious leader who will lead prayers, officiate at ceremonies and meet the needs of



the University's religious population. The religious leader will also be available to counsel students seeking guidance on spiritual and/or religious issues or provide information regarding conversion preparation.



Center for Jewish Outreach and Jewish Culture

Situated in close proximity to the campus' student activities, clubs and cafeteria, the **New Gaon Rabbi Eliyahu Campus Synagogue** will easily access the entire student population. The Synagogue will organize **Jewish cultural and educational programs**, including **seminars, lectures or meetings** of relevant Jewish content for secular students interested in expanding their Jewish knowledge.



The Synagogue will offer weekly kabbalat Shabbat gatherings and organize events focusing on each Jewish holidays: High Holy Day Festivities, Sukkah-Building Party, Hanukkah Party, Passover Seder; Tu-

B'shvat Seder; Purim Party; Shavuot Tikkun; and Independence Day/Memorial Day Ceremonies. Twice a year, the synagogue will plan for weekend retreats that will include educational and social programming under the direction of the synagogue's spiritual leader. The synagogue will evolve to become a hub of Jewish activity and socializing, which will be an special attraction for Jewish students from around the world in choosing the University of Haifa as their academic home.



The synagogue will organize outreach programs to meet the needs of the pluralistic Jewish population on campus, and to

reach out to nominally-affiliated Jewish students.



Beit Midrash



Find yourself a teacher, acquire a friend to study with you.

Pirke Avot 1:6

The Gaon Rabbi Eliyahu Synagogue will offer a **functioning Beit Midrash** with **organized prayer services, lectures, and Torah studies**. The Beit Midrash will be open to the entire University student body, where students will study Jewish thought, Talmud, Bible and other Judaic subjects, affording the opportunity to study Torah in a traditional manner. The existence of a center of Jewish study will have an important presence on campus, weaving a **resonant spiritual layer** into the fabric of our student body.



In addition to permanent staff members and guest lecturers from all over Israel, the Beit Midrash could be staffed, at least partially, with volunteer instructors from among the faculty, thus creating a center of faculty-student cooperation and interchange on campus, a valuable goal in and of itself.



Request for Support

In order to contribute to the ongoing support of the University of Haifa's new Gaon Rabbi Eliyahu Synagogue on Campus - and ensure the well-being of our Jewish student body, we respectfully seek the following support:

A Donor Wall will adorn one of the **Gaon Rabbi Eliyahu Synagogue** walls, recognizing the contribution of those who chose to participate in this important spiritual enterprise.

Friends may support the synagogue at the following levels:

Guardians	\$15,000
Supporters	\$25,000
Benefactors	\$50,000
Founders	\$100,000

We invite you to join our efforts to bring together Jewish students at the University of Haifa. Help us create an environment that will attract and support Jewish students from Israel and from overseas through the course of their studies, so that they may flourish and prosper in Haifa and its neighboring regions.

The University of Haifa, the only liberal arts university in northern Israel, sits atop Mount Carmel and presently serves a student body – the most pluralistic in the country – of more than 17,000 undergraduate and graduate students. Instruction is offered within the framework of six faculties: Humanities, Social Sciences, Law, Sciences and Science Education, Social Welfare and Health Sciences and Education. The University's dual mission of first-rate higher education and service to the community at large is manifested in the equal educational opportunities open to all sectors of the society and the many forms of programs promoting social outreach. Among community projects initiated by the university are several aimed at fostering mutual understanding and cooperation between all cultures on campus and beyond. Research is carried out under the aegis of the Faculties and by a variety of centers, institutes and laboratories. An Overseas Studies Program draws students from around the world. Integration into the larger academic sphere occurs through exchange and research agreements with various universities around the world.

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