

נעלה



REACHING NEW HEIGHTS

*Maharat's Next 100 Graduates
2025–2028*



You cannot be what you cannot see.

Maharat announces...

100 GRADUATES, 100 WOMEN

ORDAINED BY THE FIRST ORTHODOX WOMEN'S RABBINICAL SCHOOL

Each and every one of these graduates embodies Maharat's groundbreaking and sacred goal: empowering Orthodox women to realize their dreams of leading the Jewish people, thereby modeling the power and necessity of Orthodox female leadership.

Our graduates serve and raise up Jewish communities throughout the world, in ten countries across five continents. In our 16th year with 100 graduates in the field, we will raise our graduates to new heights of leadership, while continuing to invest in what we do best: educating the next

generation of Orthodox rabbis to be Torah-centric leaders who are grounded in Jewish law and sensitive and compassionate to the needs of today's Jewish community.

Over the next three years, we will recruit Maharat's next 100 rabbinic leaders, invest in and innovate our curriculum to ensure it will be maximally relevant for today's Jewish community, and create a formal network of resources and community for our alumnae, many of whom are the first Orthodox women in their roles.



aharat was founded on the belief that Orthodox female leaders are critical for the future of the Jewish community. Ordination and the authority of a title are necessary for women to make a profound impact. We focus on learning and scholarship for a purpose: excellence in Torah, halakha, and tradition, overlaid with pastoral and leadership training, enable Maharat leaders to take the Jewish community to new heights.

We train rabbis who are compassionate leaders, listeners, scholars, and educators. Learning, teaching, upholding, and doing informs our foundational and fundamental vision. Our vision also includes upholding our tradition out in the world, while boldly bringing about the changes that *raise up* the Jewish community. We actively bring more joy and justice to the world.

We are a force and leader in the global Jewish community, ordaining rabbis who transcend boundaries, build denominational, communal, and interfaith bridges, and have ignited a revolution in visionary, learned, and relatable leadership.

Rabba Sara Hurwitz, President and Co-Founder, and
The Maharat Board of Directors

”וְתֵן בְּלִבֵּנוּ לְהִבִּין וּלְהַשְׁכִּיל
לִשְׁמַע לִלְמַד וּלְלַמֵּד לִשְׁמֹר
וּלְעֲשׂוֹת וּלְקַיֵּם אֶת כָּל דִּבְרֵי
תַּלְמוּד תּוֹרַתְךָ בְּאַהֲבָה.”

*“Instill in our hearts the desire
to understand, to comprehend,
to listen, to study, to teach,
keep and do and preserve all
of the words of the study of
your Torah with love.”*

—Second Blessing in the
Shema, Shacharit

Theory of Change

Maharat is proud to celebrate a historic milestone — a moment that not only honors the trailblazing women who have committed themselves to Torah, leadership, and service, but also affirms the power of a bold and transformative **vision**: a world where Judaism is deeply relevant, Jewish communities are well-educated, and diverse leaders inspire individuals to lead spiritually engaged lives.

Our mission is to educate, ordain, and invest in passionate and committed Orthodox women who model a dynamic Judaism to inspire and support individuals and communities.

At the heart of our work lies a clear and compelling **Theory of Change** — one that guides our mission and helps shape the evolving future of Orthodox leadership.

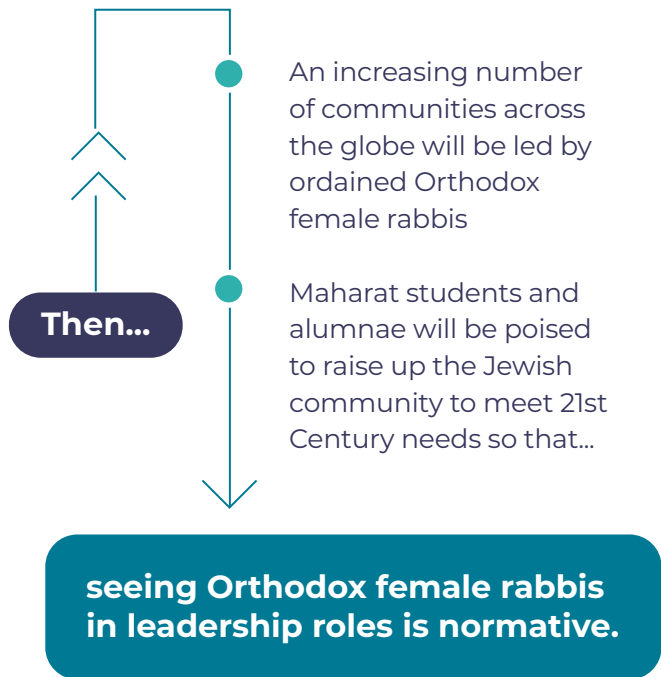
If, Maharat...



Builds a robust pipeline of students committed to deep learning

Provides Orthodox women with high-quality, rigorous, comprehensive rabbinic training culminating in semikha

Invests in ongoing support and learning for Orthodox female rabbinic and Torah leaders



ALUMNAE PLACEMENTS

As of June 2025

53

EDUCATIONAL
POSITIONS

19

COMMUNAL
ORGANIZATIONS

15

SENIOR
SYNAGOGUE
PULPITS

8

CHAPLAINS

7

ASSISTANT/
ASSOCIATE
SYNAGOGUE
PULPITS

2

HILLEL
PROFESSIONALS

Maharat Rabbis are Needed More Than Ever

Maharat's founding beliefs remain strong—

preparing female graduates to meet the needs of changing communities. Our 21st Century communities are faced with challenges: antisemitism, polarization, loneliness, rapidly-changing technology, COVID, and October 7. More than ever, Jews seek spiritual guidance, and at the same time, they are reluctant to join traditional Jewish institutions and structures.



This shift in the landscape offers new opportunities for Orthodox women's learning and rabbis who can support Jewish life in a new way, in a new world.

Maharat graduates:

- **Minister** to families in Hostage Square in Tel Aviv
- **Worked** as hospital chaplains during the darkest days of COVID
- **Lead** communities from synagogue pulpits
- **Are celebrated** as award-winning educators

They are on the forefront of supporting communities, addressing challenges, and responding to opportunities and renewed interest in Jewish life.

ALUMNAE PROFILES



Rabbi Rebecca Blady '19

Executive Director of Hillel Deutschland, Co-founder of Base Berlin, and founder of Ze Kollel, a communal learning space in Berlin, Germany



Rabba Daniella Pressner '20

Head of School at the Akiva School in Nashville, TN



Rabbanit Leah Sarna '18

Spiritual Leader at Kehillat Sha'arei Orah in Lower Marion, PA and Faculty for the International Beit Din and the Drisha Institute for Jewish Education



Rabba Dr. Anat Sharbat '15

Co-Founder of Shalom Aleichem Kehillah and the Rabba of Hostage Square in Tel Aviv, Israel



Rabbanit Alissa Thomas-Newborn '16

Chaplain at New York-Presbyterian Columbia University Irving Medical Center and Co-Rabbanit at Congregation Netivot Shalom in Teaneck, NJ



Rabbanit Dr. Meira Wolkenfeld '24

Director of Education and Community Engagement at Congregation Beth Israel in Berkeley, CA

Learn about...

OUR PRIORITIES

OVER THE NEXT THREE YEARS



ENROLLMENT



RIGOR



INNOVATION



LEADERSHIP

Meeting the Need

Maharat is unique in explicitly granting semikha to women, and after 16 years of experience in the field, we have learned specifically what women need before, during, and after their time in rabbinical school in order to make the biggest impact on the Jewish community.



BEFORE

- **Engage** high school and college students in Maharat programming and develop continuing touchpoints
- **Develop** relationships with Orthodox camps and day schools
- **Create** a pipeline for second career candidates



DURING

- **Pilot** career-based fellowships to strengthen connections between students and placements
- **Engage** lay leaders by providing certification for pastoral training
- **Launch** Hear Her Voice: Center for Writing, Homiletics, and Communications Training



AFTER

- **Launch** Revava: Alumnae and Torah Leader Network
- **Support** placements and professional development throughout rabbinic careers
- **Increase** formal relationships with Orthodox institutions
- **Create** programs for post-semikha learning and continuing education

ENROLLMENT

Build the pipeline of Maharat candidates

Maharat will continue attracting highly qualified students and increase the market of candidates. By elevating Talmud learning for high school and college women, we will cultivate and build relationships with candidates. In addition, we will create new strategies for appealing to women seeking out second careers.

STRATEGIES

- **Design** a cohesive pathway to engage middle and high school students
- **Strengthen** college pipeline opportunities
- **Create** pipeline for second career candidates
- **Develop** recruitment plan for Israel and the global market



HIGHLIGHT

College Learning Fellowship

Weekly gemara and halakha classes for women in college

In 2024–2025, we had 18 participants at seven universities in three countries and a four-day intensive at Maharat.

“Thank you for this amazing program. I learned so much and really enjoyed being in a high-level women’s learning environment. I can’t wait to continue my involvement in Maharat learning in the future.”

– 2025 Intensive Participant

PRIORITY 2

RIGOR

Ensure continued high-quality education that serves as a differentiator for Maharat

Over the past 16 years, both the rabbinate and the needs of the Jewish community have evolved, as has the diversity of the student body. Our programs uphold high standards of learning and rigor, making this an opportune time to reassess the curriculum, processes, and expectations to ensure they continue to support those standards.

STRATEGIES

- **Conduct** core curriculum audit across programs
- **Ensure** effective and equitable learning environments for all students globally to underscore highest quality across all mediums, modalities, and locations
- **Launch** Hear Her Voice: Center for Writing, Homiletics, and Communications Training for Female Rabbis and Rabbinical Students



HIGHLIGHT

Beit Midrash Program Intensive

Students in Maharat's preparatory program gather annually for learning and community building. The 2024-2025 class included students from the US, Europe, and Africa.

INNOVATION

Develop new programs for maximum impact

Maharat will strengthen career-based skills for current students—chaplaincy, education, entrepreneurship, and pulpit work—through fellowships that enhance program rigor and align graduates with field needs. We will also extend our pastoral education philosophy to the broader community by offering training to non-rabbinic professionals.

STRATEGIES

- **Create** career-based fellowships for Core Semikha
- **Develop** Pastoral Action Initiative to educate community leaders
- **Focus** on post-semikha advanced learning
- **Develop** pastoral training for Maharat BaAretz and the global market



HIGHLIGHT

Yom Iyun

Psychological First Aid: Rabbinic Care in Times of Trauma

On December 19, 2025, 50 students, alumnae, and faculty trained with Ayelet Shmuel, LCSW, Director of the International Resilience Center in Sderot as part of our pastoral education program. They learned how to be pastoral first aid responders to trauma, acts of aggression, and natural disasters.

LEADERSHIP

Establish a thriving network of female Orthodox leaders

Maharat is committed to ensuring our graduates thrive as leaders in the Jewish community by advancing the role of Orthodox female rabbis. This includes building new organizational relationships, equipping graduates with essential career skills, and offering ongoing support to increase their acceptance and visibility.

STRATEGIES

- **Launch** Revava: Alumnae and Torah Leader Network
- **Build** Career Lab to strengthen career opportunities for graduating students and alumnae
- **Connect** female leaders to key Orthodox communal institutions



HIGHLIGHT

Maharat Compensation Study

In order to resource and elevate alumnae and women in similar spiritual and Torah leader positions, Maharat launched a survey examining rabbinic salaries in the Orthodox community. This effort will contribute to salary transparency and equity for Orthodox women rabbis and will actively address disparities in wage gaps.



Opportunities & Outcomes

In this new landscape, Maharat's strategy will differentiate us in this current reality. At the end of 2028, evidence of Maharat's success will include raising up (*na'aleh*):

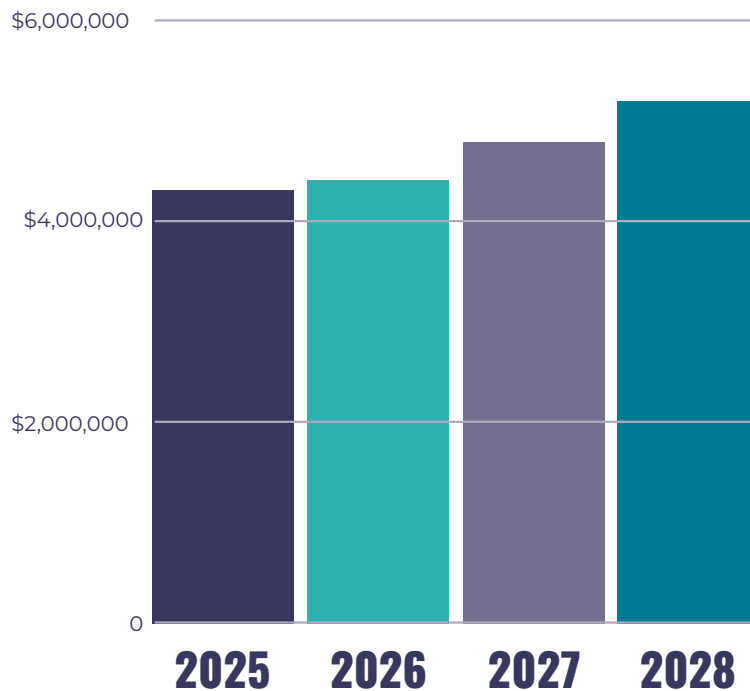


- the number of middle, high school, and college students engaged in Maharat programming
- recruitment and opportunities in Israel and globally
- the rigor of ordination to encapsulate both rabbanut standards and the full breadth of Maharat's education
- women's writing and speaking abilities
- merit-based fellowships leading graduates to impactful rabbinic careers
- placements of graduates in vibrant, established, dynamic Orthodox communities, Jewish day schools, and education positions
- relationships and programs with lay leaders and communities
- graduates and other similarly qualified women participating in a thriving alumnae network
- the number of women in senior rabbinic positions
- the recognition of Maharat as a sought-after resource for post-semikha deeper learning



Financial Forecast

Over the next three years, Maharat's budget will grow cumulatively by 20% to address its strategic goals and priorities. Maharat will make investments in staff, marketing and communications, alumnae support, and fellowship stipends to align with these priorities.



MAHARAT IS COMMITTED TO ELEVATING ORTHODOX WOMEN

by educating the next generation of rabbis to be Torah-centric leaders grounded in Jewish law and sensitive and compassionate to the needs of today's Jewish community.

נַעֲלָה

Na'aleh meaning “we will ascend,” embodies the spirit of Yeshivat Maharat’s mission — to elevate Jewish communities by empowering Orthodox women as leaders, changemakers, and halakhic authorities.