The Barkai Center

The Barkai Center for the Training of Community Rabbis was established in 2011. The Barkai Center promotes the idea of communities in Israel, empowering them and making them an anchor of guidance in Jewish law and spiritual and religious support. It does this by preparing community rabbis in advanced technology and the challenges of modern life so the members of their community will feel they are up-to-date and relevant.

Barkai's curriculum includes a full day of study once a week over two years, and a total of about 600 hours of training. Rabbis selected for the program have already passed their rabbinical certification tests. At the Barkai Center, they study many diverse topics concerning how to apply Jewish law in modern life.

Barkai prepares the rabbi of a community to become the person to whom they turn for every question. They become leaders who can provide their community with clear, uniform, up-to-date and modern guidance in Jewish law. The role of the community rabbi is to unify and inspire the members of his community to a life of faith and trust in God, observance of mitzvot, commitment to society and Torah study. The rabbi's personal acquaintance with the members of his community allows him to adjust his rulings within the framework of Jewish law, taking in consideration the unique facets of each member of his community. He facilitates the religious and spiritual growth of the members of his community and strengthens each one according to the individual path appropriate to him.

To achieve these complex goals, Barkai ensures that community rabbis receive comprehensive training on many varied topics. They are frequently updated on the wide variety of challenges that modern life poses and on existing Jewish legal solutions. They become familiar with the organizations that specialize in various challenging fields.

Barkai's training was designed to explain to the community rabbis, the breadth of the Jewish legal issues, and familiarize them with the solutions to the challenges that frequently arise in modern life.

For its many years of providing training and accompanying community rabbis - the 2023 Prize was awarded this year to the Barkai Center.

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Rabbi Shlomo Dichovski

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Rabbi Haim Sabato