

Two rabbis to head Bialik's Jewish studies

Compiled by CJN staff

Bialik High School, part of a historically secular Jewish school system, has hired two rabbis as heads of its Jewish studies and life program with the aim of "foster[ing] its pluralistic Jewish environment."

Rabbi Shimon Felix is the former executive director of the Bronfman Youth Fellowships in Israel, and Rabbi Dov Whitman was a Jewish educator for Hillel and a chaplain at McGill University, where he earned a master's degree in education.

The New York-born Rabbi Felix lived in Israel from 1973 and was ordained at the Yeshivat Hamivtar, of which he was later educational director. He also headed the Jewish Agency's bureau for cultural services to communities and was an assistant

to Britain's Chief Rabbi Jonathan Sacks. He became associated with the Bronfman Youth Fellowships in 1991.

"Together, they have vast experience with youth from the full range of Jewish backgrounds, from unaffiliated to Orthodox," stated a press release from Bialik. "[The rabbis] will provide essential, dynamic Jewish leadership through direction, guidance, inspiration and support for Judaic studies curriculum development and the Jewish life of Bialik."

Rabbi Felix is quoted as saying: "To engage our students, to inspire them to connect and care, we must present them with a Judaism which is serious, honest, relevant to their lives, and which addresses their needs and concerns, as well as those of the community."

The engagement of the rabbis comes after "a period of self-evaluation and reflection" on the direction of the school.

Bialik recently appointed a new principal, Ken Scott, a veteran educator, who most recently was principal of Heritage Regional High School, under the public Riverside School Board on the South Shore.

The school consulted with communi-

ty-based committee in its search for new Judaic studies leadership. Members were Karen Gazith, director of education at Federation CJA's Bronfman Jewish Education Centre; Rabbis Alan Bright of Shaare Zedek Congregation; Reuben Poupko of Beth Israel Beth Aaron; Ron Aigen of the Reconstructionist Synagogue and McGill Jewish studies professor Barry Levy.



FILM FOCUSES ON MISUNDERSTANDINGS

Jacob Tierney, left, stars in *Sorry, Rabbi*, a 10-minute short by Montrealer Mark Slutsky, that has its world premiere during the Toronto International Film Festival Sept. 8 to 18. Set in Montreal, the comedy is about a young secular Jewish man's misadventures with his chassidic neighbours.



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Rabbi Michael Kushnick and Chazan Phil Goldig.

ראש השנה



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SHAARE ZEDEK CONGREGATION
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