

**DR. MICHAEL SHMIDMAN DISCUSSES  
UPCOMING CONFERENCE AND  
JEWISH EDUCATION TODAY  
ON *TALKLINE WITH ZEV BRENNER***

Dr. Michael Shmidman, dean and professor at Touro College's Graduate School of Jewish Studies, announced a forthcoming academic conference to be held in Jerusalem and Ramat Gan, January 18-19, 2010, on the topic: "*Aggadah and Aggadic Interpretation Throughout the Generations.*" The conference, open to the public, is co-sponsored by Touro College Graduate School of Jewish Studies, Machon Lander (the former Jerusalem branch campus of the graduate school named in honor of Touro College Founder and President Dr. Bernard Lander), and Bar-Ilan University in Israel.

Dr. Shmidman discussed the conference and Jewish education today and how it has changed with time in a recent interview on *Talkline with Zev Brenner*.

The interview can be found here:

[http://talklinecommunications.com/broadcasts/?p=episode&name=2009-12-30\\_talkline\\_122909.mp3](http://talklinecommunications.com/broadcasts/?p=episode&name=2009-12-30_talkline_122909.mp3)

Dr. Shmidman opened the interview with a brief history of the graduate Jewish Studies program established in New York in 1981, and described the Manhattan-based master of arts program, with a concentration in Jewish history. He mentioned that a new M.A. track is being offered at Lander College for Men in Queens to provide rabbinical students the opportunity of enhancing their careers as educators and administrators.

Dr. Shmidman also spoke about two recently-published scholarly volumes he edited titled *Turim: Studies in Jewish History and Literature* in honor of Dr. Lander, with mention of articles written by well-known scholars in Jewish Studies.

Further information about the Graduate School of Jewish Studies can be found at: [www.touro.edu/judagrad](http://www.touro.edu/judagrad) or email [michaels@touro.edu](mailto:michaels@touro.edu)