

MEMORIAL FOUNDATION  
FOR JEWISH CULTURE

**30th ANNUAL  
INTERNATIONAL  
NAHUM GOLDMANN  
FELLOWSHIP**

HANOVER, GERMANY  
AUGUST 5 -12, 2018

## Sunday, August 5, 2018

- 4:00 - 6:00 pm NGF Network Leadership Seminar Cohort 3  
Arrival and Registration
- 6:00 - 7:00 pm Dinner
- 7:15 - 8:00 pm **Getting to Know Each Other**
- 8:00 -10:00 pm **Elements of Jewish Leadership**  
Prof. Steven Windmueller

## Monday, August 6, 2018

- 7:30-8:45 am Breakfast
- 9:00 - 11:45 am **NGF Network Leadership Seminar cont.**
- 12:00 - 1:00 pm Lunch
- 1:15 - 3:15 pm **NGF Network Leadership Seminar - Gender & the Jewish Community**  
Prof. Channa Pinchasi & Prof. Steven Windmueller
- 2:00 - 6:00 pm New NGF Fellows: Arrival, Registration & Orientation  
**Welcoming Remarks**
- 6:00 - 6:45 pm Marlene Bethlehem, President MFJC  
Rabbi Jeni Friedman, Executive VP MFJC
- 7:00 - 8:00 pm Dinner
- 8:15 - 10:00 pm **What Can we Learn from Each Other?**
- 10:15 pm *Ma'ariv*

## Tuesday, August 7, 2018

- 7:15 am *Shacharit*
- 7:30-8:45 am Breakfast
- 9:00-12:00 pm **Trauma & Transitions: Return to Germany**  
Rabbi Dr. JJ Schacter & Shana Yocheved Schacter
- 12:15 - 1:45 pm Lunch
- Workshops**
- NGF Network Leadership Seminar - Israel/Diaspora Relations I** Rabbi Dr. JJ Schacter & Prof. Steven Windmueller
- Jewish Identity through the Lens of Cinema**  
Prof. Eric Goldman
- 2:00 - 4:00 pm **Biblical Perspectives on Current Social Issues**  
Rabbi Prof. Saul Berman
- Rabbinic Responses to 21st Century Challenges**  
Prof. Channa Pinchasi
- Exploring our Personal Jewish Narratives**  
Shana Yocheved Schacter

**SAVE THE DATE**

# **31st ANNUAL INTERNATIONAL NAHUM GOLDMANN FELLOWSHIP**

OHALO MANOR, KINNERET, ISRAEL  
JUNE 16 - 24, 2019

## MFJC Staff in Attendance

Rabbi Jeni S. Friedman Executive Vice President  
David Jacobson Associate Director  
Yael Schlesinger On-Site Coordinator, NGF 30  
Rabbi Alon Meltzer Shabbat Coordinator, NGF 30

We are grateful to Michael Fürst, MFJC Vice President, President of the Association of Jewish Communities in Lower Saxony, Chairman of Jewish Community in Hannover, and representative of the Zentralrat to the MFJC, and Tova Harety for their support and dedication which helped make this Fellowship a reality.

The Memorial Foundation for Jewish Culture (MFJC) promotes Jewish peoplehood by supporting and developing the next generation of scholars and leaders in Jewish communities around the world.

[www.mfjc.org](http://www.mfjc.org) [www.ngfp.org](http://www.ngfp.org)

## Tuesday, August 7, 2018 cont.

4:00 -7:00 pm Free Time  
*Mincha@ 4:15pm*  
4:30 -5:30 pm *Fellow-Led Elective:*  
*Creating Community* Eli Ovits  
*Fellow-Led Elective:*  
5:45 - 6:45 pm *Israel-Diaspora Relations: The Third Way* Michael Freedman  
7:00 - 8:00 pm Dinner  
8:15 - 10:00 pm **Where Do I Stand?**  
10:15 pm *Ma'ariv*

## Wednesday, August 8, 2018

7:15 am *Shacharit*  
7:30 - 8:45 am Breakfast  
9:00 - 12:00 pm **Migration, Mobility, and Memory**  
Professor Yael Zerubavel  
12:00 - 1:00 pm Lunch  
1:00 - 6:45 pm **Guided tour of Bergen Belsen followed by facilitated discussion**  
7:00 - 8:00 pm Dinner  
**Workshops**  
**NGF Network Leadership Seminar - Israel/Diaspora Relations II** Prof. Yael Zerubavel & Prof. Steven Windmueller  
**Jewish Identity through the Lens of Cinema**  
Prof. Eric Goldman  
8:15 - 10:15 pm **Biblical Perspectives on Current Social Issues**  
Rabbi Prof. Saul Berman  
**Rabbinic Responses to 21st Century Challenges**  
Prof. Channa Pinchasi  
**Exploring our Personal Jewish Narratives**  
Shana Yocheved Schacter  
10:15 pm *Ma'ariv*

## Thursday, August 9, 2018

7:00 am *Shacharit*  
7:30 - 8:45 am Breakfast

## Thursday, August 9, 2018 cont.

**Return & Regeneration:  
Contemporary Germany as a Case Study for Robust  
Jewish life in the Diaspora**

9:00 - 12:00 pm Prof. Jonathan Schorsch, Dr. Svetlana Jebrak, Mr. Marc Simon

12:15 - 1:45 pm Lunch

12:45 - 1:45 pm *Reflections on the Trump Presidency and American Jewry* Prof. Steven Windmueller

**Workshops**

**NGF Network Leadership Seminar - Jewish Activism**

Prof. Jonathan Schorsch & Prof. Steven Windmueller

**Jewish Identity through the Lens of Cinema**

Prof. Eric Goldman

2:00 - 4:00 pm **Biblical Perspectives on Current Social Issues**

Rabbi Prof. Saul Berman

**Rabbinic Responses to 21st Century Challenges**

Prof. Channa Pinchasi

**Exploring our Personal Jewish Narratives**

Shana Yocheved Schacter

4:15 - 10:00 pm **Visit to local Hanover Jewish Community**

10:00 pm *Everything is Illuminated: A Night @ the Movies* with Prof. Eric Goldman

## Friday, August 10, 2018

7:15 am *Shacharit*

7:30 - 8:45 am Breakfast

9:00 - 12:00 pm **Are We a Global Jewish People?**

Dr. Steven Bayme

12:15 - 1:45 pm Lunch

2:00 - 4:00 pm **Open Space - The Conversations You've Been  
Waiting to Have** David Jacobson

4:15 - 7:00 pm Free Time

*Fellow-Led Elective: How to be an appealing  
community in a Netflix era* Guido Dercauttan

4:15 - 5:15 pm *Fellow Led Elective: Finding your Flame: A Therapeutic  
Art Workshop* Gabriela Mendelsohn

*Fellow-Led Elective: Cook Jewish, Be Jewish* Laurina  
Todesaite

5:30 - 6:30 pm *Fellow-Led Elective: Jacob and the Angel: Wrestling  
with Evil as a nation and individual* Jade Weiner

## Faculty Biographies cont.



**Prof. Jonathan Schorsch** is a Professor of History, Universität Potsdam and the Founder & Creative Director, JASS – The Jewish Activism Summer School, Potsdam, Germany.



**Prof. Steven Windmueller** is an American scholar and Jewish communal professor. He is a professor emeritus of contemporary political issues and American Jewish affairs at the Hebrew Union College – Jewish Institute of Religion.



**Prof. Yael Zerubavel** is a professor of Jewish Studies & History at Rutgers University and the founding director of The Allen and Joan Bildner Center for the Study of Jewish Life at Rutgers.

## Faculty Biographies cont.



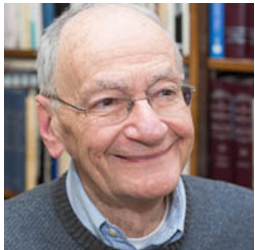
**Dr. Channa Pinchasi** is the director of the Be'eri School for Teacher Education at the Shalom Hartman Institute. She founded Cheider Mishelach, a Beit Midrash for influential female leaders in Israel.



**Rabbi Dr. Jacob J. Schacter** is the University Professor of Jewish History and Jewish Thought and Senior Scholar, Center for the Jewish Future, Yeshiva University, USA. He is the author of many books and articles on Jewish subjects.



**Shana Yocheved Schacter, CSW** is a psychotherapist in private practice in New York City.



**Rabbi Prof. Ismar Schorsch** is the past president, MFJC, Chancellor Emeritus, Jewish Theological Seminary of America and the Herman Abramovitz Prof. of Jewish History.

## Friday, August 10, 2018 cont.

- 7:00 pm **Group Photograph**  
 7:30 pm *Mincha followed by pre-Shabbat program*  
 7:45 pm **Communal Kabbalat Shabbat, D'var Torah by Marlene Bethlehem, President MFJC, Dinner with D'var Torah by Fellow & Oneg Shabbat**

## Saturday, August 11, 2018 *Rosh Chodesh Elul*

- 7:30 - 9:00 am Breakfast  
 8:45 - 11:15 am *Traditional Shabbat Service*  
 9:30 - 10:30 am *Alternative Shabbat Study*  
 Prof. Channa Pinchasi  
 11:30 - 11:45 am **Communal Kiddush**  
 12:00 - 1:30 pm **Germany and the Jewish Experience**  
 Rabbi Prof. Ismar Schorsch  
 1:45 - 3:00 pm **Lunch - D'var Torah by Fellow**  
 3:15 - 4:15 pm *Fellow-Led Elective: Abraham's True Heir* Isaac Landes  
 4:30 - 5:30 pm *Fellow-Led Elective: Mizrahi Masortiut A Model of Jewish Tolerance* Lior Benisty  
 6:30 pm *Mincha*  
 7:00 - 8:00 pm **Seudah Sh'lisheet - D'var Torah by Fellow**  
 9:45 pm **Havdallah**  
 10:15 pm **Biergarten & BBQ**  
**NGF Beit Cafe**

## Sunday, August 12, 2018 *Rosh Chodesh Elul*

- 7:00 am *Shacharit*  
 7:30-8:45 am Breakfast  
 9:00 -11:00 am **Design Thinking: Ideas and Actions**  
 Rabbi Jeni S. Friedman  
 11:00 -12:00 pm **Where to from here?**  
 12:00 - 1:00 pm Check Out and Pick Up Box Lunches

Attendance: **compulsory**/optional

*L'hitraot NGF 30!*

## Fellow Biographies



**Ma'ayan Baker** is an Israeli-born, Melbourne-raised educator. She teaches Academic English to international students at Melbourne University. Ma'ayan has completed a B.A. and a Master's of Teaching, and is currently pursuing a postgraduate degree in Psychology. She was an active member in Habonim Dror and participated in a year-long leadership program in Israel, after which she was appointed Rosh Chinuch (Head of Education).



**Lior Benisty** is the Director of the Young Adult Center in Lod, providing guidance and support in the areas of higher education, vocational training, work readiness and social engagement. He is also the chairman of the Association of Young Adult Centers in Israel. He founded Kanfei Yona, an initiative to record the oral history of the aliyah of Ethiopian Jews. Recently, he wrote and published a children's book in Hebrew on the subject of Moroccan Jewish heritage. He holds a B.A. in Education from Oranim College.



**Tali Cheses**, from Boston, MA, is employed by Gensler, the biggest architecture firm in the world. Tali holds a Bachelor's degree in Architecture from Pratt Institute. She was fortunate enough to do a semester abroad in Israel at The Bezalel Academy of Art & Design. Tali is involved with various groups at the UJA/FED NY and Drisha Institute.



**Emma Daitz** is a doctoral candidate in the Department of Sociology at UCT. Her doctoral work explores the ethics of friendship in the context of the South African liberation struggle. She has been involved with the South African Jewish Voice for Peace, Limmud and Mechon Hadar's Project Zug. Emma is an alumna of the 2018 Regional NGF in South Africa.

## Faculty Biographies



**Dr. Steven Bayme**, is the Director of the Contemporary Jewish Life Department of the AJC and of the Koppelman Institute on American Jewish-Israeli Relations. He holds undergraduate degrees in history from Yeshiva University and M.A. and Ph.D. degrees in Jewish history from Columbia University. He has published many books and articles on topics of Jewish interest.



**Rabbi Prof. Saul Berman**, Professor of Jewish Studies, Stern College of Yeshiva University, Adjunct Professor, Columbia University School of Law, USA. As a rabbi, a scholar, and an educator, Rabbi Berman has made extensive contributions to the understanding of the applicability of Jewish law to contemporary society.



**Dr. Eric Goldman** is: a noted film historian and educator; adjunct professor of cinema at Yeshiva University; teacher at Fairleigh Dickinson University and Temple Emanu-El Streicker Center; founder of Ergo Media, Inc., USA.



**Dr. Svetlana Jebrak** is a scientific associate in the Department of International Affairs of the Ruprecht-Karls-University, Heidelberg, Germany.

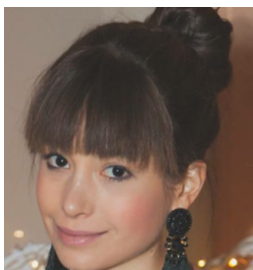
## Fellow Biographies cont.



**Laurina Todesaite**, from Lithuania, is an educator in the Shalom Aleichem ORT school in Vilnius. She earned Bachelor's degrees in Sociology, Anthropology and Education from Haifa University. Laurina founded #CookJewishBeJewish, an educational project which connects people and preserves Jewish heritage through Europe-wide culinary workshops and communal Jewish holiday celebrations. She is involved with ROI, Paideia and Limmud. Laurina is an alumna of NGF 27.



**Alyssa Weiner** is the Assistant Director of International Jewish Affairs at the American Jewish Committee (AJC). She helps maintain AJC'S network of relationships with Jewish diaspora communities, addressing their issues and concerns. She was born and raised in South Florida, and graduated Magna Cum Laude from George Washington University with a B.A. in International Affairs. Alyssa is the Past President of Jewish Women International (JWI)'s DC Young Women's Leadership Network.



**Jade Weiner** is a qualified attorney, notary and mediator, working currently as a legal researcher. A graduate of the University of Witwatersrand, Jade also attended a Midrasha in Israel. She serves as a non-executive director of the Union of Jewish Women assisting with projects including Kosher Mobile Meals and an after-care creche. Jade is an alumna of the 2018 Regional NGF in South Africa.

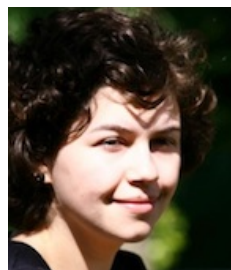
## Fellow Biographies cont.



**Guido Dercattan**, from Buenos Aires, works as a fundraiser and social marketing professional. He holds a graduate degree in administration from the University of Buenos Aires and is currently working on a Master's in Communication and Marketing. Guido is an alumnus of NGF 27 and 28.



**Oren Drori** is the Program Officer for United Nations Affairs at B'nai B'rith International. He supports advocacy and programming efforts that advance B'nai B'rith's goals at the U.N. including: defending Israel, combating anti-Semitism and anti-Zionism, and promoting global human rights and humanitarian concerns. He received a B.A. in Political Science from the University of Minnesota and a M.A. in International Relations from the University of Chicago.

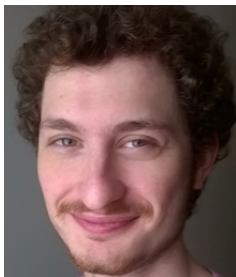


**Lucia van Eeden** lives in Amsterdam. Although trained in medicine, she is currently working as a licensed translator of Polish and Dutch. She is a board member and a teaching assistant at Ledor Wador, the Sunday school for pre-bar mitzvah children in her kehillah, Beit ha'Chidush. She would like to study Jewish Studies in Cracow, with a focus on pre-war and post-war Jewish history. Lucia holds a Master's of Science from the University of Amsterdam.



**Rebeka Salame Farca** is a high school Jewish Studies teacher in Mexico City. She has volunteered at Kadima, an organization that helps people with special needs. Rebeka is involved in cultural and sports activities like the Festival Aviv. She earned a Master's in Jewish Studies from the Universidad Hebraica and a certificate in Holocaust Studies from Yad Vashem.

## Fellow Biographies cont.



**Gabriel Feldman** holds a B.A. in Social Communication from the University of Buenos Aires. Currently, Gabriel works at AMIA's "Marc Turkow" Center for Documentation and Information on Argentinean Jewry. Previously, he worked as a journalist in independent cultural media.



**Michael Freedman** is the Executive Director of ASQ Israel, a company providing a range of merchant banking services, which create a new model of investment in Israel. Michael earned a B.A. Hons in French and Hispanic Studies. He volunteers for Tel Aviv's White City Shabbat and arranges conferences for Jewish Federations of N.A. Michael is an alumnus of NGF 26.



**Oshrith Gadkar**, from Mumbai, is a human resources manager for the Indian Stock Exchange. She arranges events for Jewish singles in her community. Oshrith raises funds for community members to meet education expenses. She holds a Master's degree in Commerce from Mumbai University.



**Anna Ginzburg** is a graduate of the Russian State University for the Humanities, Center for Biblical and Jewish Studies, a joint project of the Jewish Theological Seminary of America and YIVO institute. Currently she is working for Hillel, Russia as a senior Jewish educator. She volunteers for educational and cultural projects and events, related to the Jewish community of Moscow. Anna is an alumna of the 2015 Regional NGF in Copenhagen.

## Fellow Biographies cont.



**Sophie Shall** is a graduate of Cambridge University, now working on a M.A. in Social Work at Goldsmiths, University of London. She has been working with young people and teaching at Westminster Synagogue in London. Sophie does volunteer work for organizations dealing with migrant and refugee rights and welfare.



**Anna Stern** is a program manager at Shalom, a cultural and educational organization in Sydney, Australia. Anna is also involved with Shalom's many volunteer committees and is passionate about community development. Previously, Anna worked as an English teacher and teacher trainer. She completed a degree in Linguistics and French Literature at Haifa University.



**Magda Szwabowicz**, from Warsaw, teaches Hebrew at Beit Warszaw, and works as a Hebrew translator at the Polin Museum. In addition she manages the museum's bookshop. She is an active member of the Ec Chaim Progressive Synagogue. Magda is completing her Ph.D. in Hebrew Studies at the University of Warsaw.



**Joshua Todes** is studying Law at Varsity College in South Africa. He earned degrees in Anthropology, Religious Studies and Counter-Terrorism. Joshua was very active in SAUJS, holding various board positions there. Since childhood he has sung in his synagogue's choir. After living in Israel, Joshua now makes his home in Cape Town. Joshua is an alumnus of the 2018 Regional NGF in South Africa.



## Fellow Biographies cont.



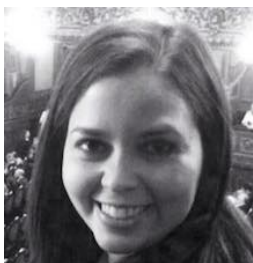
**Nico Riethmüller**, a licensed sociologist from Chile, is a full time rabbinical student at the Seminario Rabinico Latinoamericano Marshall T. Meyer. He is the director and editor of El Diario Judio, a website for Jewish writers. Nico also works as the Youth Department Director at Comunidad Benei Israel. He will also serve as the *More* of Giyur (conversion).



**Daniel Rosenbaum**, from Israel, currently lives in New Zealand, where he has become a core contributor and leader of the Wellington Jewish Community Center (WJCC). He serves as a member of its board. Daniel graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in Film, Media Studies, Political Science and International Affairs from Victoria University of Wellington. He is a community adviser to the New Zealand Department of Internal Affairs.



**Tamsin Sanderson** is an Australian diplomat. As a Middle East specialist, she has baked challah and hosted Shabbat dinners in unlikely places, from Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, to Ankara, Turkey, and explored Jewish historical sites across the region. She speaks fluent Arabic, Turkish and German, having lived in Germany for eight years, and completed a Ph.D. in linguistics there. Back home in Australia she is an active member of the ACT Jewish Community.



**Diana Selechnik** was born and raised in Guatemala City. She is a dentist, language consultant, and volunteer activist. Diana serves on the board of directors of several institutions in Guatemala, such as Keren Hayesod and Dor Hemshej. She is also an active member of several international Jewish organizations, such as the Jewish Diplomatic Corps of the World Jewish Congress, the New Generations Program of the Latin American Jewish Congress, and LAZOS LATAM. Diana is an alumna of NGF 28.

## Fellow Biographies cont.



**Sienna Girgenti** is the assistant director of B'nai B'rith's International Center for Human Rights and Public Policy. She manages programs and organizational advocacy on Latin American affairs. Sienna also serves as the director of the B'nai B'rith Cuban Jewish Relief Project. She is an active leader with the B'nai B'rith Young Leadership Network and GatherDC in Washington, DC. Sienna holds a B.A. in International Studies from American University. She has also studied in Madrid, Buenos Aires, and Jerusalem. Sienna is an alumna of NGF 28.



**Sarah Groner** is the Partnerships and Resource Development Manager of JDC's Israel Unlimited. Sarah has built a career in the non-profit sector, where she has focused on communications, resource development and program management for social change organizations. She holds a Master's degree in Public Policy from Tel Aviv University and completed her Bachelor's degree in Social Work at Bar-Ilan University. Sarah is an alumna of NGF 26.



**Anita Halasz**, from Switzerland, is the cultural manager of the Jewish Community of Geneva. She received a Master's degree in International Relations from The Graduate Institute of Geneva. She is responsible for organizing many cultural activities including tours, conferences, concerts and workshops.



**Roman Kogan**, from Tallinn, now lives in Israel. He has a M.A in Journalism and Communications, and a B.A. in International Relations, Journalism and Communications from the Hebrew University, Jerusalem. He is currently Executive Director of Limmud FSU.

## Fellow Biographies cont.



**David Krantz** is the co-founder and president of Aytzim: Ecological Judaism. He is a National Science Foundation IGERT doctoral researcher and Wrigley fellow at Arizona State University's School of Sustainability. David is a member of: the board of the Interfaith Moral Action on Climate; the Interfaith Oceans founding team; and the American Zionist Movement cabinet. He holds three Master's degrees, including one in the field of Judaism and environmental policy. David is an alumnus of NGF 29.



**Kimberley Kyne**, from California, holds a Bachelor's degree from Otis College. She works as a fashion and jewelry designer. Kimberley has put her professional career on hold in order to pursue Jewish studies at Neve Yerushalayim seminary in Jerusalem.



**Isaac Landes**, an American-Israeli, is a tour guide and diplomatic liaison at the Knesset. He is combining studies for Rabbinic ordination with pursuit of a M.A. in 19<sup>th</sup> Century European History. His goal is to teach Jewish studies at the most advanced level.



**Jonathan Marcus** from Berlin, has a Master's degree in Future Studies from the Freie Universitat. When not working in real estate, he is involved with: Limmud Germany; Berlin's Fraenkelufer Synagogue; Masorti Germany; the Board of Governors of the Jewish Agency; WZC; and AJC's Access chapter.

## Fellow Biographies cont.



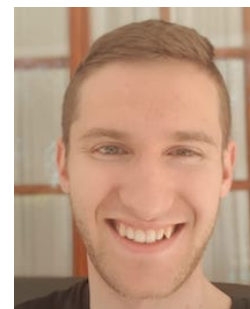
**Gabriela Mendelsohn**, from South Africa, graduated from the University of Witwatersrand with degrees in Psychology and English Literature. She travelled and volunteered in Jewish communities in Russia, and studied in an Israeli seminary before returning home to study Logo Therapy and Community Art Counselling. She is now practicing as an Art Counsellor, using art as a therapeutic tool.



**William Nemes** is the Jewish Community Relationship Manager of the New South Wales Jewish Board of Deputies in Australia. He was an advisor to various members of Parliament across federal and state governments. His involvement with the Jewish community includes executive membership of the Australasian Union of Jewish Students, volunteering at Montefiore nursing home, becoming a Deputy of the NSW JBD and now becoming a director of Emanuel Synagogue. He is currently finishing a Business Degree.



**Eli Ovits** is the Chief Executive of Limmud. He works with Jewish communities across the world building capacity and local volunteer leadership. Previously, he worked for Jerusalem U, The Israel Project and the Joint Distribution Committee. He studied International Relations at Hebrew University and continues to serve as a Captain (Res.) in the IDF Spokespersons Unit. Eli grew up in the UK where he was active in various organizations including Bnei Akiva, Mizrahi and JNF. Eli is an alumnus of NGF 29.



**Josh Poyurs** is studying to become a rabbi while at the same time working towards a Master's degree in psychology. His goal is to create a bridge connecting the two worlds. Presently, Josh teaches high school boys Talmud, Halacha and Jewish Philosophy. He makes his home in Johannesburg. Josh is an alumnus of the Regional NGF in South Africa.