

MEMORIAL FOUNDATION  
FOR JEWISH CULTURE

**USA REGIONAL  
NAHUM GOLDMANN  
FELLOWSHIP**

PEARLSTONE CENTER  
REISTERSTOWN, MD.

MARCH 10–12, 2019

TENTATIVE PROGRAM

## Sunday, March 10, 2019

- 3:00 - 4:00 pm Arrival and Registration at Pearlstone Center - Main Lobby
- 4:00 - 5:00 pm **Welcome to the NGF & Getting to Know Each Other**  
Beit Midrash
- 5:00 - 6:00 pm **Opening Plenary:**  
**Where are We and How did We get Here?** - Beit Midrash  
Rabbi Dr. Saul Berman, Rabbi Dr. Rachel Sabath Beit-Halachmi, Dr. Shaul Kelner
- 6:00 -7:00 pm **Dinner** - Dining Hall
- 7:30 - 9:30 pm **Q&A and Kvutzot** - Beit Midrash, Earth, Stone
- 9:45 pm *Ma'ariv (Optional) - Beit Midrash*
- 9:45 pm *Snack - Lower Lobby*

## Monday, March 11, 2019

- 7:00 - 8:00 am *Shacharit (Optional) - Beit Midrash*
- 8:00 - 8:45 am **Breakfast** - Dining Hall
- Workshops**
- 9:00 - 10:30 am Rabba Yaffa Epstein - Now and Then: Power and Powerlessness in Jewish and American Thought - Stone  
Dr. Eric Goldman - American Jewish Identity in Film - Beit Midrash  
Dr. Steven Windmueller - On the Politics and Political Lives of American Jewry - Earth
- 10:30 - 10:45am *Coffee & Snacks - Lower Lobby*
- Plenary Session: This Moment in America** - Beit Midrash  
Rabbi Dr. Saul Berman, Rabbi Dr. Rachel Sabath Beit-Halachmi, Dr. Shaul Kelner
- 12:00 - 1:00 pm **Lunch** - Dining Hall
- 1:00 - 2:30 pm **Kvutzot** - Beit Midrash, Earth, Stone  
2:00 pm - Reconvene Beit Midrash
- 2:30 - 6:00 pm Recreation/*Fellow-led Electives*  
*Fellow-led Electives Session I*  
Dr. Efraim Chalamish - Israel in today's American Jewish life - Stone  
Julia Crantz - Head and Heart: Leveraging Data to Unlock New Possibilities for a Jewish Future - Beit Midrash
- 2:45 - 3:45 pm

## Monday, March 11, 2019 cont.

- 3:45pm *Coffee & Snacks - Lower Lobby*  
*Traditional Mincha (Optional) - Beit Midrash*  
*Meditative Monday Mincha with Cantor Jennifer Rolnick (Optional) - TBD*
- 4:00 - 5:00 pm *Fellow-led Electives Session II*  
Dr. Bradley Caro Cook - Growth Hacking for Exponential Jewish Engagement - Stone  
Blake McCabe - The Non-Halachic Child: Identity Self-Construction and the Rabbinate - Beit Midrash
- 5:30 - 6:00 pm **Group Photo - TBD**
- 6:00 - 7:00 pm **Dinner - Dining Hall**
- 7:00 - 8:00 pm **Visions for American Judaism: 2030 - Beit Midrash**  
Shai Franklin, Dr. Shawn Landres, Rebecca Neuwirth
- 8:00 - 10:00pm **Open Space Activity - David Jacobson - Beit Midrash**
- 10:00pm *Ma'ariv (Optional) - Beit Midrash*
- 10:00 - 11:00 pm *Campfire with S'mores & Schmooze*

## Tuesday, March 12, 2019

- 7:15 am *Traditional Shacharit (Optional) - Beit Midrash*  
*Egalitarian Shacharit with Guitar (Optional) - TBD*
- 8:00 - 8:30 am **Breakfast - Dining Hall**
- Workshops**  
Rabba Yaffa Epstein - Now and Then: Power and Powerlessness in Jewish and American Thought - Stone
- 8:45 - 10:15 am Dr. Eric Goldman - American Jewish Identity in Film - Beit Midrash  
Dr. Steven Windmueller - On the Politics and Political Lives of American Jewry - Earth
- 10:15 - 10:30pm *Coffee Break*
- 10:30 - 12:00pm **Kvutzot Reflections and Next Steps - Beit Midrash**
- 12:00 - 1:00pm **Lunch & Departure - Dining Hall**

Attendance: **compulsory/optional**

## Fellow Biographies

### **Miranda Bogen**

Miranda, from D.C., is a Senior Policy Analyst at Upturn, a nonprofit organization that promotes equity and justice in the design, use, and governance of digital technology. Prior to working in technology policy, Miranda worked as a Jewish professional ultimately serving as the Director of Communications for Masa Israel Journey in New York. She holds a MA in Law and Diplomacy from the Fletcher School of Law & Diplomacy at Tufts University, and a BA in Middle Eastern & North African Studies and Political Science from UCLA.



### **Helena Bondar**

Originally from Moldova, New Yorker Helena is the Senior Program Associate in National Young Leadership at Jewish Federations of North America. Previously, she was the Program Manager at Limmud NY. Helena majored in International Studies at the American University in D.C. and spent a year in Israel at the Pardes Institute of Jewish Studies. She took part in Avodah's Justice Fellowship, as well as JDC Entwine trips. Helena fosters community-building as a resident of Moishe House Harlem and volunteers with the grassroots music organization, Sofar Sounds. She is an alumna of NGF 29 in Israel.



### **Margee Burch**

Margee is the co-founder and president of Sacramento's Kol Rinah, an engaged, egalitarian, participatory community driven by Jewish values and tradition. Now a middle school history teacher and mom, she has worked for 10+ years within synagogues and Jewish communities. She holds a B.A. degree in Education from Mills College.



### **Efraim Chalamish**



Efraim earned his doctorate in International Economic Law from the University of Michigan. Currently, he teaches International Investment Law at NYU Law School. He is the founder and president of the Global Center for Economic Development and Security. Efraim is involved in public service and diplomacy, helping various nonprofit organizations with strategic thinking and leadership development. He is a frequent guest speaker at various international forums and universities. Efraim is an alumnus of NGF 27 in Israel and the NGF 28 Leadership Seminar in Mexico.

### **Rivka Cohen**



Rivka is the Program Manager at JOFA, the Jewish Orthodox Feminist Alliance in New York, where she creates content, runs logistics, handles marketing and communications. Rivka graduated from Brandeis University, where she studied Islamic & Middle Eastern Studies and Near Eastern & Judaic Studies and minored in Politics. At Brandeis, Rivka served as: Education Coordinator of the Brandeis Orthodox Organization; Executive Coordinator of bVIEW – Brandeis Visions for Israel in an Evolving World; and co-founded JFAB – Jewish Feminist Association at Brandeis.

### **Bradley Cook**



Bradley, from California, holds a doctorate in Education from Walden University. He is a graduate of Upstart; Birthright Israel Fellow; Schusterman ROI community member; Amplifier Giving Circle Fellow; Eli Talk Fellow; and co-founder of the City of Beverly Hills' Entrepreneurship Incubator. Bradley works for Career Up - Hillel, a national program originated at the University of Florida. He also serves on various non-profit boards and holds several civic leadership positions.

### **Julia Crantz**



Julia is a fourth-generation Washingtonian who graduated from Brandeis University with a major in American Studies and a concentration in Film Studies. She serves the AJC Washington team as its Assistant Director of Development. Julia also organizes volunteers for major events at the DCJCC. She will soon leave AJC to become the Executive Director of the Tikkun Olam Women's Foundation of Greater Washington, whose mission is to support social change for women and girls locally and in Israel.

### **Kate Dolgenos**



Kate holds the position of media relations associate for B'nai B'rith International. She is from Philadelphia, lives in Washington, D.C., and went to college in Southern California. Kate earned a Bachelor's degree in Politics from Pomona College. She is involved in outreach to young professionals through the 2239 Steering Committee at Washington Hebrew Congregation.

### **Josefin Dolsten**



Josefin is a New York-based journalist who writes about gender, politics and culture as they relate to the Jewish community. She currently works as a staff writer at JTA, the Jewish Telegraphic Agency. Swedish by nationality, she moved to NY with her family at a young age. She attended Cornell University, where she studied government and Near Eastern Studies. Josefin earned a Master's degree in Jewish Studies and Comparative Religion from Hebrew University.

### **Matt Fieldman**



Matt, from Cleveland, holds a MBA from George Washington University. After spending nine years working in the Jewish community, Matt was engaged in the field of international humanitarian aid. He also helped start a leadership institute for ex-offenders and the first software development boot camp specifically for low-income adults. He is now working on an award-winning apprenticeship program focused on inner-city youth.

### **Shai Franklin**



Shai, from White Plains, NY, served numerous non-governmental organizations including: The World Jewish Congress; NCSEJ; American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee (JDC); United Nations Watch; and the Anti-Defamation League. He was a Senior Fellow with the Institute on Religion and Public Policy and a Treasurer of the UN-affiliated Conference of Non-Governmental Organizations (CoNGO). Shai holds a Bachelor's degree in Political Science and a Master's in Middle East Studies from Johns Hopkins. He serves on the U.S. advisory board of ZAKA as well as the board of the DCJCC. Shai is an alumnus of NGF 10 in Sweden as well as the North American Regional NGF in Ottawa.

### **Sienna Girgenti**



Sienna is the program director for strategic engagement at B'nai B'rith International. She manages strategic public diplomacy, humanitarian relief in Cuba, and coordination of the organization's national engagement strategy. She is an active leader with the B'nai B'rith Young Leadership Network and GatherDC in the nation's capital, and founder of the NGF Alumnae Rosh Chodesh group. Sienna holds a B.A. in International Studies from American University and has also studied in Madrid, Buenos Aires, and Jerusalem. She is an alumna of NGF 28 in Mexico as well as the third cohort of the NGF Network Leadership Seminar in Germany.

### **Alyssa Gorenberg**



Alyssa works for Moishe House as a Program Coordinator, helping community builders in the Midwest create peer-led Jewish experiences. She is a religious school teacher and youth group advisor at her home congregation, Temple Chai in Long Grove, IL. Alyssa is a participant in the ADL's Glass Leadership Institute, and is also a co-chair of the Union for Reform Judaism's first class of Emergent Givers. She holds a Bachelor's in Mathematical Sciences from the University of Michigan.

### **Evan Hochberg**

Evan, from New Jersey, is Senior Restitution Policy Specialist at the Conference on Jewish Material Claims Against Germany. In this capacity, he also serves as Director of International Affairs for the World Jewish Restitution Organization, working to secure restitution of Holocaust-era Jewish property. Evan has focused his Jewish lay activities on creating spirited prayer communities in which all members are encouraged to participate. He is on the Board of the Jewish Orthodox Feminist Alliance, was founding chair of Minyan Tiferet, a prayer group in Englewood and Tenafly, NJ, and a founder and chair of Shirat Miriam and Minyan Tehillah in Cambridge, MA. Evan holds a law degree from Harvard and a bachelor's degree from Columbia. Evan is an alumnus of NGF 17 in Cape Town.



### **Aliyah Jacobson**

Aliyah, from Texas, now lives in New York. She is pursuing a BA in Early Childhood Education at Brooklyn College. Aliyah sings with the Brooklyn Community Chorus and with a musical theater group which performs Broadway covers. She serves on the board of the Chabad Young Professionals of Crown Heights, Brooklyn, organizing events, especially large Shabbat dinners. Aliyah belongs to the CAMERA Fellowship program on her college campus. She also serves on "Bulldogs for Israel", a non-partisan Israel club at Brooklyn College.



### **Josh Kanter**

Josh is the outreach and partnership manager at Reboot where he is responsible for scaling their projects and building the organization's voice. Josh has a wealth of experience in the Jewish community, having worked previously with UJA-Federation of New York, American Jewish World Service, the Jewish Federation of Metropolitan Detroit, and Bend the Arc. Josh is the immediate past co-chair of Advancing Jewish Professionals of New York City, a local group of the JPRO Network. Originally from Detroit, he holds a MSW in Jewish Communal Leadership from the University of Michigan School of Social Work. Josh lives in Manhattan.





### **Daniel Kraus**

Daniel is the Associate Vice President of Strategic Partnerships at the Birthright Israel Foundation. He is responsible for strategic alliances, partnerships, and brand experience. Prior to his work with Birthright Israel, Daniel served as the inaugural director of the Manhattan Jewish Experience (MJE) Downtown where he spearheaded the creation of a community of young Jewish professionals and created a hub of Jewish engagement in midtown Manhattan. An ordained rabbi, Daniel also serves as the director of community education at Cong. Kehilath Jeshurun in Manhattan, where he lectures, delivers sermons, and co-directs KJ's beginners program. Daniel holds BS and MBA degrees from Yeshiva University. In 2017, he was one of the Jewish Week's 36 Under 36 emerging Jewish leaders.



### **Shana Krauss**

Shana has a degree in history from Barnard College. She recently assisted Stuart Eizenstat in researching and writing his newly published and highly acclaimed book "President Carter: The White House Years". Prior to that, she was a program director for The Ronald S. Lauder Foundation in New York. Together with her husband, she moved to Frankfurt, Germany where they were instrumental in revitalizing and rebuilding Judaism in Eastern and Central Europe. Shana currently lives in Yonkers, NY. She plans to attend law school in the fall.



### **Shawn Landres**

Shawn is the co-founder of Jumpstart Labs and a Senior Fellow at UCLA Luskin's School of Public Affairs. He holds degrees from Columbia, Oxford, and UCSB, where he earned a PhD in religious studies. He was an Ariane de Rothschild Fellow and is a member of the ROI Community and Bend the Arc's Selah Leadership Network. He and his family spend most of the year in Santa Monica and the rest in and around the Slovak Republic. He is the co-editor of four books as well as innovative reports on charitable giving and civic leadership. Shawn is an alumnus of NGF 22 in Croatia and NGF 24 in Poland.



### **Karen Martin**



Karen is the executive director of Rockdale Temple in Cincinnati, OH. She holds Master's degrees in Humanities and Jewish Professional Studies. With materials from her MA thesis, she helped shape a new religious service, shabbatCTY, the first itinerant service in Cincinnati with the goal of reaching unaffiliated Jews across Cincinnati's urban core. She is a board member of Cincinnati Hillel and a teacher in a synagogue religious school program.

### **Jake Max**



Jake grew up in the suburbs just outside of Baltimore. He graduated from Emory University with a Bachelor's in Business Administration with a focus on Strategy & Management Consulting. Jake spent some time as a food justice fellow for Repair the World in Crown Heights, New York. He worked for and recruited volunteers for local soup kitchens and food pantries. In addition, he planned educational and social programming for young adults in Brooklyn. Currently he is the Program Manager at Charm City Tribe where he manages young adult programming for the Jewish Community Center of Greater Baltimore.

### **Blake McCabe**



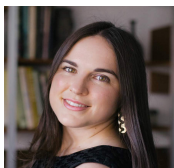
Blake is a Ph.D. student in Anthropology at Binghamton University. She serves as the educational coordinator and lead teacher at Temple Israel's Sunday school and as an adjunct lecturer in Israel Studies at Binghamton University. Blake is a member of the e-board of MEOR at Binghamton and the board of the Joint Jewish Adult Education Committee in her home town. She also coordinates and develops curriculum focused on Jewish pluralism, which addresses the variety of Jewish ethnicities and the conflicts non-halachic Jews face. She is an alumna of NGF 29 in Israel.

### **Stacey Meadows**



Stacey is a licensed clinical social worker and supervisor for Jewish Community Services of Baltimore. She holds a Master's degree from New York University Graduate School of Social Work, as well as an Advanced Certification in Child and Adolescent Trauma Treatment from University of Maryland. Stacey is a member of the Leading from Within Jewish Leadership Cohort of DF Institute for Professional Development.

### **Lulu Mickelson**



Lulu holds a Bachelor's degree from Barnard University. Currently, she works at the NYC Department of Housing Preservation & Development where she leads the City's "Where We Live NYC" community-driven process to confront segregation and develop the next chapter of fair housing policy. In her work, Lulu draws from a background in storytelling, design-thinking, and grassroots community organizing. In her hometown of Los Angeles, Lulu worked for IKAR, organizing Bnei Mitzvah and Tikun Olam programming. She also volunteers for Shir Hamaalot BK, a non-denominational independent community (havurah), where she organizes monthly services.

### **Anya Morgulis**



Anya is currently working towards a Master's degree in Jewish Education with a focus in Educational Leadership at the Jewish Theological Seminary of America. Previously, Anya lived in Jerusalem where she studied at the Pardes Institute of Jewish Studies, receiving a certificate in Experiential Education. During her time in Israel she worked with the Jewish community of Istanbul, Turkey in an initiative to support their local Jewish educational efforts. Anya is an alumnus of NGF 29 in Israel.

### **Rebecca Neuwirth**



Rebecca is Director of Development at the Center for Popular Democracy. Previously, she worked as Director of Strategic Engagement & Senior Development Officer at JDC (American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee). Rebecca is on the Advisory Board of the Sandra Kahn Wasserman Jewish Studies Center at Baruch College. In 2014, Rebecca was a convener for JCPA's inaugural Resetting the Table project around Israel dialogue. She has a BA from Yale University and an MA from the Free University in Berlin. Rebecca is an alumna of NGF 10 in Sweden.

### **Jen Rolnick**



A native Texan, Jen, completed her studies at the Jewish Theological Seminary of America. She was a practicing attorney for several years before deciding to pursue her dream of becoming a cantor. She received her Juris Doctor from Nova Southeastern University and her Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Miami. Jen is currently serving as the cantor of Beth Israel Congregation in Owings Mills, Maryland.

### **Joel Swedlove**



Joel serves as the director of youth programs and informal education at Temple Beth-El in San Antonio, Texas. He has served as a youth group advisor and director for several congregations throughout Southern California and Las Vegas. Currently, Joel is completing his Master's in Organizational Leadership at Hebrew Union College. He serves on the Life and Legacy Committee of the Jewish Federation of San Antonio.

### **Gidon van Emden**

Gidon, from Amsterdam, has lived in six cities on three continents over the last twenty years. Having worked with Jewish communities across Europe and beyond, he has advocated for Jewish interests by working to combat antisemitism and other forms of hate and to promote diversity and respect. Gidon holds Master's degrees in Business Administration and the Arts from Brandeis University and a degree in Jewish Studies from the University of Amsterdam. He is the C.O.O. of a kosher sustainable meat company. Gidon is a board member of his synagogue – Ohr Kodesh – in Silver Spring Md.



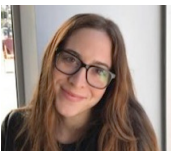
### **Benjamin Varhula**

Ben joined the Moishe House staff in 2017 as the Midwest Regional Manager. Originally from Wisconsin, he now lives in Chicago. He earned his degree in plant science from the University of Minnesota-Twin Cities. While studying at the University of Minnesota, Ben was very active in Hillel, where he served as an Engagement Intern and the Student President. Ben is an alum of the Chicago – Lakeview Moishe House, and prior to that was at the Hillel at Northwestern University as the Program Associate.



### **Alyssa Weiner**

Alyssa is Assistant Director of International Jewish Affairs for the American Jewish Committee (AJC). She is the past board president of Jewish Women International's DC Young Women's Leadership Network. Alyssa graduated from George Washington University's Elliott School of International Affairs with a B.A. in International Affairs. She previously worked in fundraising for a fraternal organization before joining AJC. Alyssa was born and raised in South Florida. She is an alumna of NGF 30 in Germany.



### **Martin Yafe**



Martin is the chief program officer of the YM&YWHA of Washington Heights and Inwood. Born and raised in Argentina, he continued his Jewish professional journey in Sydney, Australia where he served as Director of Youth Education and cantor for Emanuel Synagogue, and as an educational consultant for the Jewish Board of Deputies of NSW. Martin then settled in New York, where he worked as an executive planner for UJA-Federation, supporting Jewish life in NY, Israel, and around the world. He is a graduate of IDC-Herzliya, having majored in Security Studies. Martin also holds a B.A. in International Relations, and studied at the Rabbinical Seminary in Buenos Aires. He is an alumnus of NGF 21 in Israel and NGF 22 in Croatia.

### **Cheri Yochelson**



Cheri, from Virginia, is Senior Counsel at a large energy company. She earned a Juris Doctor degree from Albany Law School. Cheri is a board member of the Jewish Community Federation of Richmond. She has taken on a leadership role in Jewish life on college campus programs in nearby universities. Cheri is also a mentor at the University of Richmond Law School.

## Faculty Biographies



**Rabbi Prof. Saul Berman** is a Professor of Jewish Studies at Stern College of Yeshiva University, and an Adjunct Professor at the Columbia University School of Law.



**Rabbi Dr. Rachel Sabath Beit-Halachmi** is a scholar, Jewish institutional leader, author, spiritual leader, strategic innovator and sought-after public speaker. Most recently Rabbi Sabath led a four-campus team to achieve the goals of a five-year strategic plan as the National Director of Recruitment and Admissions at the Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion (HUC).



**Rabba Yaffa Epstein**, is currently the Director of Education, North America for the Pardes Institute of Jewish Studies. Rabba Epstein will assume the position of Director of the Wexner Heritage Program this summer.



**Prof. Eric Goldman** is a noted film historian and educator. He is an Adjunct Professor of Cinema at Yeshiva University, and teacher at Fairleigh Dickinson University and Temple Emanu-El's Streicker Center. He is the founder of Ergo Media, Inc.



**Prof. Shaul Kelner** is an Associate Professor of Sociology and Jewish Studies at Vanderbilt University.



**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.