

MEMORIAL FOUNDATION  
FOR JEWISH CULTURE

**INTERNATIONAL  
NAHUM GOLDMANN  
FELLOWSHIP**  
OHALO MANOR  
KINNERET, ISRAEL

**NGF NETWORK  
LEADERSHIP SEMINAR  
COHORT 6**

JUNE 11 - 18, 2023

**NGF 33**

JUNE 12 - 18, 2023

## Sunday, June 11 | 22 Sivan

<b>2:00 - 5:00 PM</b>	NGF Network Leadership Seminar Cohort 6 Arrival and Registration
<b>5:30 - 6:15 PM</b>	<b>Welcome, Orientation, and Connection</b> Jeni S. Friedman and David Jacobson
<b>6:15 - 7:15 PM</b>	<b>Transitional Leadership</b> Steven Windmueller
<b>7:15 - 8:15 PM</b>	Dinner
<b>8:15 - 9:30 PM</b>	<b>15 Toasts: To Hope</b>

## Monday, June 12 | 23 Sivan

<b>7:00 AM</b>	<i>Shacharit</i>
<b>8:00 - 8:45 AM</b>	Breakfast
<b>9:00 - 10:30 AM</b>	<b>Destructive Leadership</b> Rachel Sabath Beit-Halachmi
<b>10:30 - 11:00 AM</b>	Break
<b>11:00 AM - 12:00 PM</b>	<b>Guidelines for Cohort 6 Final Lessons in Leadership</b> Jeni S. Friedman and David Jacobson
<b>12:00 - 1:00 PM</b>	Lunch
<b>1:15 - 3:15 PM</b>	<b>Gender and The Jewish Community</b> Channa Pinchasi
<b>3:00 - 4:00 PM</b>	NGF 33 Fellows Arrival and Registration
<b>4:00 PM</b>	<b>Welcome and Introduction to MFJC</b> Jeni S. Friedman
	<b>Introduction to NGF 33</b> David Jacobson
<b>5:00 - 7:00 PM</b>	<b>Jewish Journeys Workshop</b> Elyssa Moss Rabinowitz
<b>7:15 PM</b>	Dinner
<b>8:30 PM</b>	<b>Welcome Reception and Community Building</b>
<b>9:30 PM</b>	<i>Ma'ariv</i>

## Tuesday, June 13 | 24 Sivan

<b>7:00 AM</b>	<i>Yoga</i> Morane Bensoussan
<b>7:45 AM</b>	<i>Shacharit</i>
<b>8:30 - 9:15 AM</b>	Breakfast
<b>9:30 AM - 12:00 PM</b>	<b>What Binds the Jewish People?</b> Rachel Sabath Beit-Halachmi and Sam Lebens

\*Attendance: **Required/Optional**

12:15 - 1:15 PM	Lunch <b>Cohort 6 Leadership Lunch</b>
1:30 - 3:00 PM	<b>The Art of Responsibility; The Art of Peoplehood; The Hopeful Art of Constant Renewal</b> David Moss
3:00 - 3:45 PM	Break
4:00 - 6:00 PM	<b><u>Workshop A - Session 1</u></b> <b>Global Jewish Purpose: Jewish Community Through the Lens of Cinema</b> Eric Goldman <b>Jewish Text Study on Gender</b> Rachel Sabath Beit-Halachmi <b>Jewish Responses to the Problem of Pain and Suffering</b> Sam Lebens <b>21st Century Judaism: Why Is it Different and What Will It Mean</b> Steven Windmueller
6:00 - 7:00 PM	<i>Recreation/Free Time</i>
6:45 PM	<i>Mincha/Ma'ariv</i>
7:00 - 8:00 PM	Dinner
8:15 - 9:15 PM	<b>Human Barometer and Kvutzot</b>

## Wednesday, June 14 | 25 Sivan

7:00 AM	<i>Hike</i> Adam Waddell
7:45 AM	<i>Shacharit</i>
8:30 - 9:15 AM	Breakfast
9:30 AM - 12:30 PM	<b>The Role and Responsibility of Jewish Education</b> Channa Pinchasi
12:45 - 1:45 PM	Lunch <b>Cohort 6 Leadership Lunch</b>
2:00 - 4:00 PM	<b><u>Workshop A - Session 2</u></b> <b>Global Jewish Purpose: Jewish Community Through the Lens of Cinema</b> Eric Goldman <b>Jewish Text Study on Gender</b> Rachel Sabath Beit-Halachmi <b>Jewish Responses to the Problem of Pain and Suffering</b> Sam Lebens <b>21st Century Judaism: Why Is it Different and What Will It Mean</b> Steven Windmueller
4:15 - 7:00 PM	<i>Recreation/Free Time</i>
6:45 PM	<i>Mincha/Ma'ariv</i>

\*Attendance: **Required/Optional**

- 6:00 - 7:00 PM** *Jewry Duty*  
Jemma Lopis  
*Jewish Art: Limitless*  
Anna Slizinova
- 7:00 - 7:45 PM** **Dinner in Kvutzot**
- 7:45 - 10:00 PM** **Kaddish - Film and Discussion**  
Steven Brand and Yossi Klein Halevi

## Thursday, June 15 | 26 Sivan

- 7:00 AM** *Pilates and Stretch Session*  
Rachael Sara Bootcov
- 7:45 AM** *Shacharit*
- 8:30 - 9:15 AM** Breakfast
- 9:30 AM - 12:30 PM** **Israel@75: This Moment in Jewish History**  
Rachel Sabath Beit-Halachmi, Danny Fainstein, and Yossi Klein Halevi
- 12:45 - 1:45 PM** Lunch  
**Cohort 6 Leadership Lunch**
- 2:00 - 4:00 PM** **Workshop B - Session 1**  
**Global Jewish Purpose: An Israeli Perspective Through its Cinema and Television**  
Eric Goldman  
**Sephardi/Mizrahi Music—From Pulpit to Pop Chart**  
Galeet Dardashti  
**Confronting Antisemitism: Jewish Identity and Jewish Thriving in Challenging Times**  
Laura Shaw Frank  
**Spinoza Superstar: The Transformation of a Heretic into Contemporary Icon And a Maker of (Jewish) Modernity**  
Danny Fainstein
- 4:15 - 7:00 PM** *Recreation/Free Time*
- 4:45 - 5:45 PM** *The Mishkan as a Model for Artful Gathering*  
Joseph Hyman  
*Is Zionism the 11th Commandment?*  
Ezra Margulies
- 4:45 - 5:45 PM** **NGF Network Leadership Seminar**  
**The Courage Not To Conform**  
Danny Fainstein
- 6:00 - 7:00 PM** Dinner
- 6:40 PM** *Mincha/Ma'ariv*
- 7:00 - 9:00 PM** **Sunset Cruise on the Kinneret**  
Channa Pinchasi and Adam Waddell

\*Attendance: **Required/Optional**

## Friday, June 16 | 27 Sivan

7:45 AM	<i>Shacharit</i>
8:30 - 9:15 AM	<b>Breakfast in Kvutzot</b>
9:30 AM - 12:30 PM	<b>Changing Demography of World Jewry and Its Implications</b> Danny Fainstein and Laura Shaw Frank
12:45 - 1:45 PM	Lunch <b>Cohort 6 Leadership Lunch</b>
2:00 - 4:00 PM	<b><u>Workshop B - Session 2</u></b> <b>Global Jewish Purpose: An Israeli Perspective Through its Cinema and Television</b> Eric Goldman <b>Sephardi/Mizrahi Music—From Pulpit to Pop Chart</b> Galeet Dardashti <b>Confronting Antisemitism: Jewish Identity and Jewish Thriving in Challenging Times</b> Laura Shaw Frank <b>Spinoza Superstar: The Transformation of a Heretic into Contemporary Icon And a Maker of (Jewish) Modernity</b> Danny Fainstein
4:15 - 5:45 PM	<i>Recreation/Free Time and Get Ready For Shabbat</i>
4:45 PM	<i>Distance</i> Moshe Singer <i>Is That Money Clean? Values, Identity, and Philanthropy</i> Peter Neumann
6:15 PM	<i>Mincha</i>
6:30 PM	<b>NGF 33 Group Photograph</b>
6:45 - 10:00 PM	<b>Pre-Shabbat Program followed by Kabbalat Shabbat, Shabbat Dinner, and Oneg Shabbat</b>

## Saturday, June 17 | 28 Sivan

8:00 AM	Breakfast
8:45 - 11:30 AM	<i>Shabbat Morning Services</i>
10:15 - 11:15 AM	<i>Piyyut Text Study and Singing</i> Galeet Dardashti
11:30 AM	<b>NGF 33 Community Kiddush</b>
12:00 - 1:30 PM	<b>Three Texts: Three Contexts</b> Sam Lebens, Channa Pinchasi, and Steven Windmueller
1:45 - 3:00 PM	<b>Shabbat Lunch</b>
3:00 - 5:30 PM	<i>Recreation/Free Time</i>

\*Attendance: **Required/Optional**

<b>3:15 - 4:15 PM</b>	<i>The Art of Being Shomer Adamah</i> Morane Bensoussan <i>Place of Community in Jewish Text</i> Gili Dvash Yeshurun
<b>4:15 - 5:15 PM</b>	<i>Unveiling the Wisdom of Our Ancestors: Exploring Folk Sayings in the Talmud</i> Uriel Romano <i>How to Curse a Witch: A Practical Guide</i> Richard Verber
<b>5:15 PM</b>	<i>Mincha</i>
<b>5:45 - 6:45 PM</b>	<b>My Jewish Life</b> A Panel of NGF 33 Fellows
<b>7:00 - 8:00 PM</b>	<b>Seudah Sh'lishit</b>
<b>8:30 PM</b>	<b>Havdallah</b>

## Sunday, June 18 | 29 Sivan

<b>7:45 AM</b>	<i>Shacharit</i>
<b>8:00 - 8:45</b>	Breakfast and Check-Out
<b>9:00 - 10:45 AM</b>	<b>NGF 33 Closing</b> <b>Where to From Here? NGF Network Opportunities</b> <b>Hakarat Ha Tov: Gratitude</b> Sienna Girgenti
<b>11:00 AM</b>	<b>NGF 33 Fellows Bus Departs Ohalo</b>
<b>11:00 AM - 12:30 PM</b>	<b>Cohort 6 Leadership Seminar Closing and Departure</b>

# L'Hitraot NGF 33!

\*Attendance: **Required/Optional**

Wednesday, June 14

### **Jewry Duty**

Jemma Lopis

Jewry Duty was born from an awareness that Jewish day schools and other Jewish educational organizations are often struggling to find and retain Hebrew and Jewish Studies teachers. Simultaneously, most adult members of our Jewish communities have experienced meaningful Jewish moments upon which they would be willing to reflect and share. Yet, they may not have the avenue to do this. Jewry Duty combines these factors and asks: Can most adult members of a Jewish community contribute 5 days of their calendar year to contribute to the Jewish education of the next generation of their community? Can this become a communal expectation as a form of Jewish service and imperative? Jewry Duty presents and troubleshoots one practical, holistic, cyclical, ambitious model to make this concept a viable, sustainable reality. Come and hear how!

### **Jewish Art: Limitless**

Anna Slizinova

Unlock the boundless world of Jewish art in the session 'Jewish Art: Limitless.' Engage in an interactive exploration of what defines Jewish art, participate in thought-provoking activities to challenge preconceptions, and experience the transformative power of a *nigun*. Join us as we celebrate the extraordinary diversity and richness of Jewish artistic expression.

Thursday, June 15

### **The Mishkan as a Model for Artful Gathering**

Joseph Hyman

The Mishkan has acted as a model of transportable holiness throughout Jewish history and has a lot to teach us about how to create sacredness and community in our current circumstances. We will look at a mixture of Jewish texts in contrast with thinkers like Avivah Zornberg and Priya Parker to learn how this moving tabernacle can be a model for how to create more meaningful gatherings.

### **Is Zionism the 11th Commandment**

Ezra Margulies

There was a time when atheism or doubts over the Mosaic authorship of the Pentateuch would lead to accusations of heresy. Nowadays, the more likely cause for excommunication is anti-Zionism. What does that reveal about contemporary Jewish identity and modern Judaism?.

Friday, June 16

### **Is That Money Clean? Values, Identity, and Philanthropy**

Peter Neumann

Unsavory people give money, they always have, but why is this an issue? The philanthropy that allows our communities to thrive is often rooted in such economic and political practices that are contradictory to our community's norms and values. What's the impact of a 'bad' donor and what makes someone a *persona non grata*?

### **Distance**

Moshe Singer

A multidisciplinary art social experiment around personal narrative and identity. Held in South Africa on Heritage day 2020, the curators sought to bridge the distance between its participants using music, art, dance and theatre. In this session an interactive simulation will be held plus a short-form documentary will be presented about this experiment and its findings.

Saturday, June 17

### **The Art of Being Shomer Adamah**

Morane Bensoussan

The man was told by God to reign over the earth (adamah) and protect it. We will explore together the link between being a shomer adam (your brother's keeper) and a shomer adamah (an earth guardian) looking at different gates and physical precepts we were asked to keep from gan eden onwards: being our earth, our brother, our words' keeper, etc.

### **Unveiling the Wisdom of our Ancestors: Exploring Folk Sayings in the Talmud**

Uriel Romano

Embark on a captivating journey into the past as we delve into the rich tapestry of folk sayings found within the Babylonian Talmud. These ancient treasures offer a remarkable glimpse into the lives of our ancestors, revealing their wisdom, customs, and ways of thinking. In this engaging class, we will unravel the meanings behind these popular sayings, exploring their legal, homiletical, and cultural significance. Join us as we unlock the secrets of the past and ignite thought-provoking discussions. Prepare to be inspired as we also connect these timeless teachings to our own languages and cultures, discovering fascinating parallels and insights.

### **How to Curse a Witch: A Practical Guide**

Richard Verber

Protect yourself from the dangers of witchcraft with this handy session. We'll learn a special incantation from the Talmud to be said on encountering witches. We'll also look at why the rabbis of the Talmud were worried about them. Broomsticks not provided.

### **Place of Community in Jewish Text**

Gili Dvash Yeshurun

Minyan is only full if 10 are present, and each of the 10 counts exactly like the other. Why do we each matter, what is the power of each of us over the community we are in? Several times in Jewish text we are learning about the power of community in driving change. In this session, we will dive into several opportunities for us to learn what Judaism has to offer as a toolbox for community building, the role community plays in one's life, and the power of community to drive social change.



## Fellows



### **Nelly Altenburger**

Nelly, originally from Brazil, now lives in Middletown, Connecticut, USA, where she serves as the rabbi of Adath Israel Congregation. She studied Rabbinics at the Ziegler School of Rabbinic Studies and earned a Master's degree from the University of Judaism. Nelly is involved in an organization called Prophets Powerpoints which creates audio visual presentations of the Prophets and the Haftarat for use by young students in supplementary schools.



### **Jonathan Arbib**

Jonathan, from Italy, holds a Masters of Science in Information Security from Royal Holloway University, London. He taught Math and Engineering at Roehampton University. Jonathan is now a shareholder in an international architecture and construction company based in Rome. He has volunteered in his Jewish community in several roles. Jonathan is also the president of a volunteer civil protection organization which specializes in natural disaster intervention.



### **Esther Belgorodski**

Esther, from Germany, is a brand manager for a cosmetic marketing company. She is serving her second term as the president of the Jewish Students Union of Northern Germany. Esther studies Culture Studies at the University of Bremen. She has held leadership roles in various Jewish youth clubs in Hanover.



### **Morane Bensoussan**

Morane is a young Jewish leader, international attorney, and artist born in France and currently residing in Israel. She studied Law in the USA, UK, and France. Morane has completed programs such as Drisha Institute's Kollel, Pardes' Year Program, Ten Cadena, and the Urban Adamah fellowship and was a host for Moshe House in Paris and Jerusalem.



### **Rachael Sara Bootcov**

Rachael Sara, from Cape Town, South Africa, is the Youth Director for the Cape Town Progressive Jewish Congregation, Temple Israel. She teaches Hebrew and Jewish studies and prepares students for their Bnei Mitzvah. Rachael Sara studied Biology and Education at UNISA. She is involved in the leadership of Netzer and Tamar South Africa as well as Netzer and Tamar Olami [the global movements]. Rachael Sara runs leadership training and collaborative programming for interfaith, intercultural high school youth.



### **Dario Cohen**

Dario, from Argentina, is a primary school teacher in the ORT system. He is studying for the rabbinate at Seminario Rabinico Latinoamericano. Dario is also studying International Relations and Political Science and will receive his Bachelor's degree next year. He volunteers as a youth leader in his community.

## Fellows



### **Rosella de Jong**

Rosella, originally from the Netherlands, now lives in London where she is a full time Language and Literature teacher. Currently, she is finishing her Master's in Child, Adolescent, and Family Therapy. Prior to this she studied several languages and received degrees in: Film and Television Studies; Italian Literature and Psychoanalytic Studies. She has presented at Limmud.



### **Niki Forman**

Niki, from the USA, now lives in Israel. She earned a Bachelors of Music in Viola Performance from Tel Aviv University, and a Masters of Music from the New England Conservatory. Niki is a section violist for the Jerusalem Symphony Orchestra. As a member of the Jerusalem Symphony Orchestra, she was part of the inaugural tour to the UAE after the signing of the Abraham Accords. Niki is a founding member and managing director of String Theory Jerusalem, an organization that focuses on accessibility, lifting up overlooked voices in the classical world, and bringing culture into unlikely spaces.



### **Shelly Freeman**

Shelly holds a degree in Law and Economics from Monash University, Melbourne, Australia. She is currently the Chief of Staff at the YIVO Institute for Jewish Research in Manhattan. At YIVO, Shelly works closely with the CEO on a number of special projects including YIVO's online museum, developing relationships with other aligned organizations around the world including the UN, and communications and media.



### **Karolina Garlinska**

Karolina, from Poland, earned a Bachelor's degree in Anthropology of Culture from Warsaw University. She worked for the Jewish communities of Lodz and Szczecin, Poland where she had the privilege of representing the Jewish community at various interfaith and city held events. Karolina is a Kaplan Leadership Initiative alumna. She currently works at an international company in Szczecin. Karolina's hobbies include reading and finding stolpersteine in various cities as well as retracing old Jewish synagogues and cemeteries in Poland.



### **Victoria Godik**

Victoria, from Kiev, holds a graduate degree in engineering. She is a Board member of an NGO which focuses on supporting community-led energy efficiency and green initiatives. Victoria is: a Board member of the Vaad of Ukraine, a member of the WJC Jewish Diplomatic Corps, an advisor and educator at UUJS, and a founding member of ZFU. She is an alumna of various leadership and educational programs and a member of alumni networks including ROI, EUJS, WUJS, NGF, Paideia, MJC, 248, Minyanim, WZO, and the Kaplan Leadership Initiative. From the early stages of the full-scale war in her home country, she was one of the point people in the field for international organizations and networks including WJC and UAST.



### **Reviva Hasson**

Reviva, from South Africa, graduated from the University of Cape Town with a Masters in Communications degree specializing in Environmental Economics. After working in her field for several years she joined the Kaplan Centre to coordinate the 2019 survey of the SA Jewish community. She has recently taken on a new position tasked with developing a research agenda based on the community survey dataset. Reviva studied at Midreshet Harova in the Old City of Jerusalem and the Nishmat Centre for Advanced Jewish Studies for Women. She is married with 3 children and participates fully in Jewish community life in Cape Town.



### **Joe Hyman**

Joe, from the UK, is the Director of Innovation and Engagement at Limmud. He is an LGBTQ+ activist and uses his voice to increase visibility and inclusion of LGBTQ+ Jews. Joe loves Jewish learning and spent time studying at Eretz Hatzvi and Hadar. He co-founded DAVAR, an independent cultural organization producing events that bring Jewish learning and art-making together. He holds a Bachelor of Arts in Architecture and an Integrated Master's in Architectural Engineering.



### **Mijal Kohan**

Mijal, from Paraguay, studied Communications and Public Relations at Universidad de Asuncion. She is co-owner of a private security solutions firm. Mijal is involved in numerous community organizations and activities including: the culture committee, the Chevra Kadisha, a children's Tikkun Olam group and her children's school's Parents Association.



### **Emilia Litman**

Emilia, from Russia, studied Psychology in Moscow. She works in Moscow's Jewish Museum where she instructs museum visitors on the use of technology as well as the Jewish content of the featured exhibits.



### **Jemma Lopis**

Jemma, from Australia, completed a Bachelor of Arts (Modern Hebrew) and a Master of Teaching (Judaic Studies, Modern Hebrew) at the University of Sydney. She has taught most grades from preschool to Year 11. Jemma created the 'ECAJ Pro-Active Debating Program', to be piloted by the Executive Council of Australian Jewry, in co-educational Australian Jewish day schools. 'Jewry Duty', a program that encourages all able Jewish adults to participate in the Jewish education of their community is another program which Jemma created.



### **Oded Maramwidze**

Oded, originally from Zimbabwe, now lives in South Africa. He was a coordinator of the National Bible Contest, South Africa. Oded is an avid student of all the online content that the Tikvah Fund provides. He hopes to soon enroll in a new Master of Arts degree in Jewish Classical Education. Oded instructs members of his tribe, Lemba, on issues relating to Israel, Hebrew language and the Jewish world in general.



### **Ezra Margulies**

Ezra, born in Monaco, now lives in Tel Aviv. He works in sales development for a cybersecurity start-up. Ezra spent a gap-year studying at Yeshivat Eretz HaTzvi in Jerusalem, before moving to England, where he studied for a Bachelor of Arts and Masters in Philosophy in Jewish Studies from Oxford and Cambridge. He volunteered for Limmud in various roles including Chair of Programming for the Festival in 2018 and 2022.



### **Joaquin Mirkin**

Joaquin, from Buenos Aires, now lives in Madrid. He is the CEO of Mirkin Consulting Public Affairs, a consultancy studio which specializes in political and executive international coaching and public affairs. He earned a Bachelor's degree in Political Science from the University of Buenos Aires and holds two Master's degrees in related fields. Joaquin is an advisor to the AJC on Spain and Latin American affairs.



### **Peter Neumann**

Peter, from Hungary, earned a Master's in Sociology from Eötvös Loránd University (ELTE). He is the development officer for LIMMUD Europe, a pan-European Jewish organization that creates synergies between Limmud entities in continental Europe. He also worked at Haver, a local initiative that tackles antisemitism and prejudice through educational activities in non-Jewish high schools. Peter supports the work of Streetlawyer, an organization providing legal aid to the homeless and those affected by housing poverty.



### **Uriel Romano**

Uriel, originally from Argentina, now lives in the USA. In addition to his rabbinical ordination from the Latin-American Rabbinical Seminary, he holds a Master of Arts in Political Science from the University of Buenos Aires, and a Master of Arts in Jewish Studies from the Schechter Institute. He has held various rabbinical positions in the USA and Argentina. Uriel now serves as the senior rabbi at Temple Kol Ami Emanuel in Florida. He is the author of the book: "Women of the Talmud" and is very active on social media.



### **Mark Rozanov**

Mark, from Germany, completed a Bachelor's degree in Law in the UK and is currently studying History in Bremen. He is part of the University Students' Interfaith Project and a student assistant researcher for the head of the Eastern Europe Research Centre at the University of Bremen. Mark was active in Reform Jewish communities and youth movements, becoming a youth leader in the Netzer organization.

## Fellows



### Haim-Vital Salfati

Haim-Vital, from France, is an educator who works for the Alliance Israélite Universelle. He has a Master's degree in Jewish Philosophy from the Sorbonne. He studied Talmud extensively at the Collège Talmudique Française. Haim is also a film maker who has produced a program on contemporary antisemitism for French television.



### Amos Samson

Amos, born in Israel, now lives in Wellington, New Zealand. He currently works as a Technical Support and Process Analyst at Te Kura, New Zealand's correspondence school. Amos' educational background is in creative media production. He completed his Bachelor's degree at Massey University in New Zealand. Within the Jewish community, Amos is involved in Bnei Akiva as a madrich as well as with other youth organizations. Outside the Jewish community Amos was a member of CanTeen, volunteering as a Youth Ambassador for adolescents and young adults living with cancer.



### Jona Sidonova

Jona, from the Czech Republic, earned Bachelor's and Master's Degrees in Jewish studies from Charles University and Palacky University. As a rabbanit, she visits communities around the Czech Republic. Jona organizes events for Limmud and volunteers in the Jewish Museum of Prague. She will soon take on the role of Project Manager for Children and Youth Programs for the Federation of Jewish Communities in the Czech Republic.



### Moshe Singer

Moshe, from Johannesburg, South Africa, is a multidisciplinary artist with specialties in multimedia editing, music and drama. He is a co-founder and a leader of Creative Gatherings, a grassroots community music and performance arts project in Johannesburg. He earned degrees in Drama and Education from the University of Witwatersrand. Moshe is on the production team for the ASF Institute of Jewish Experience's podcast, *Reclaiming Identity*. Before moving to the world of production, Moshe was a school Drama and Life Orientation teacher as well as a founding member and an original player of the Drama for Life Playback Theatre Company. He produces and directs his own material and performs as often as he can.



### Yael Silberstein

Yael, from Argentina, received her Bachelor's degree in Sociology from the University of Buenos Aires. She has completed graduate courses in fundraising at San Andrés University. Currently, she works as the Senior Fundraiser in Institutional Development for the Association Mutual Israelita Argentina (AMIA). In her free time, she plays soccer for Maccabi, a social and athletic Jewish club and volunteers at "Ieladeinu" – a youth organization.



### **Anna Slizinova**

Anna, originally from Ukraine, now lives in Barcelona. She is an opera singer with a Master's degree in Opera Performance. Anna is also the Product Director at proSapient, a London-based IT company. She is an active alumna of the Paideia Institute of Jewish Studies. During COVID, Anna created a virtual audiovisual experience combining newly composed orchestral pieces with digital artwork. Since Russia invaded her home country, Anna organizes and performs in charity concerts, in Spain and abroad, to help war victims.



### **Elmira Tarivierdieva**

Elmira, originally from Odessa, Ukraine, has lived and studied in six different countries, and is currently based in Berlin. She has a Bachelor of Arts and a Master of Arts in International Relations from Odessa University, and a Master of Arts in Euroculture from the University Deusto in Bilbao, Spain. In 2019, Elmira joined the Jewish Diplomatic Corps. of the World Jewish Congress, where she is working on a project on unity and inclusion in Jewish communities, particularly with regards to gender diversity. Elmira is currently a Director of Leadership Programs at Hillel Deutschland, where she works on developing programs to empower people to act and lead.



### **Leora Tarshish**

Leora, formerly Lauren Kessler, called Cape Town, South Africa home for the first 25 years of her life before she made aliyah and moved to Jerusalem. In 2018 she moved to Ontario, Canada to work, together with her partner, Yos, for Hillel Ontario as Senior Jewish Educator at Western University. Leora is currently the Director of Education and Advocacy for Queens University Hillel. Leora holds a Bachelor of Social Sciences in History, Politics, and Philosophy and a Honors degree in History from the University of Cape Town. She has recently completed her Master's Degree in Jewish Education from The Hebrew University of Jerusalem.



### **Yos Tarshish**

Yos, originally from the UK, now lives in Canada, He is the Campus Director of Queen's Hillel, in Kingston, Ontario. Yos earned a Bachelor of Arts (Hons) in Youth and Community Studies from Manchester Metropolitan University and is an alumnus of several community leadership programs. He is a trustee-at-large of Kingston's Beth Israel Congregation, where he leads services and connects with the city's vibrant Jewish community beyond campus. Yos volunteers with IPF Atid - the young leadership network of Israel Policy Forum. He previously served as a vice-president of the World Jewish Congress, a presidium member of the World Zionist Organisation, and on the directorate of KKL-JNF.



### **Gidon Van Emden**

Gidon, raised in Amsterdam and having lived in Israel, London, Boston, and Brussels, now calls the Washington, DC area home. He is the CEO of KOL Foods, the kosher grass-fed meat company. He chairs the Chevra Kadisha of his shul, and is an active advocate for Jews United for Justice. Gidon serves on the Maryland Board of Funeral Directors. He also serves beer as his shul's brewer-in-residence.



### **Richard Verber**

Richard, from the UK, is the Director of Communications for the United Synagogue, the largest synagogue body in Europe. He was the Senior Vice President of the Board of Deputies of British Jews, the representative body of the UK Jewish community. Richard is a trained Holocaust educator, leading delegations of Jews and senior faith leaders on journeys to Poland and Germany. He studied Russian and French at Oxford University and has a Master's degree in Jewish Education. Richard provides regular thought-leadership for national papers, TV and radio and the Jewish press and is an experienced public speaker.



### **David Wiseman**

David, originally from Sydney, now lives in Jerusalem. He has vast experience with Start-Up Nation working in SEO, content writing and most recently online reputation management and digital branding. David is the co-founder of Follow Team Israel, a web page devoted to sharing the stories of Israeli and Jewish sports. He holds a Bachelor of Commerce in Accounting and Finance from the University of New South Wales.



### **Gili Dvash Yeshurun**

Gili lives on a moshav in the Hef Valley, Israel. She studied Social Work in a Community and Social Activism track and earned an Masters in Business Administration from Ben Gurion University in Non-Profit Business Management. Gili is currently the Director of Strategic Community Relations at BINA, the Jewish movement for social change. She is a lay-leader in her regional municipality's department of Israeli Culture and Identity-Zayit and in the culture committee of her town.

## Faculty and Staff



### **Pam Alcala**

Pam is the Content, Marketing, and Communications Associate for the MFJC. She is also an Alumna of NGF 31, Cohort 5 of the Network Leadership Seminar, and Madricha for the NGF Online in 2021. Born and raised in Santiago, Chile, Pam has spent the last 20 years living in Long Island, NY. She has been a Jewish Educator for the past 7 years, and most recently, a programming consultant for At The Well, and Program and Care Coordinator for Camp Ga'avah. She currently specializes in the application of expressive arts and its connection to a deeper understanding of Jewish values. Pam uses her skills as a Social Worker and Jewish Educator to build and strengthen leadership skills and promote justice, diversity, equity, and inclusion work. She holds a Bachelor of Arts in Anthropology and Criminal Justice and a Masters in Social Work from Adelphi University in Garden City, NY.



### **Rabbi Dr. Rachel Sabath Beit-Halachmi**

Rabbi Dr. Rachel Sabath Beit-Halachmi is an American-Israeli leader, author, and public speaker, and the inaugural senior rabbi at Har Sinai-Oheb Shalom Congregation in Baltimore. Ordained at Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion in New York, Rabbi Sabath also holds a doctorate from the Jewish Theological Seminary. She teaches Jewish leaders around the world through the Memorial Foundation for Jewish Culture and the Kaplan Center for Jewish Peoplehood. Prior to her arrival in Baltimore, Dr. Sabath served on the faculty of HUC-JIR as assistant professor of Jewish thought and ethics and led a four-campus team. She was vice president of the Shalom Hartman Institute in Jerusalem, wrote a monthly column for The Jerusalem Post, and has published pieces in The Times of Israel and Haaretz. Currently, she serves on the editorial board of the CCAR Journal of Reform Judaism and is at work on two volumes, one on Jewish peoplehood and the other, co-edited with Rachel Adler, on ethics and gender. Rabbi Sabath is an alumna of the Wexner Foundation Graduate Fellowship and a member of the Phi Beta Kappa Society. Most recently, Rabbi Sabath was selected to be a scholar of Our Common Destiny, a partnership between philanthropists, the Israeli Foreign Ministry and former Israeli President Reuven Rivlin.



### **Steven Brand**

Steven Brand is an Emmy Award-winning producer and editor. His documentary *Kaddish*, about growing up as the child of a Jewish Holocaust survivor, featuring Yossi Klein Halevi, won a Special Jury Award at Sundance and has been shown theatrically throughout the U.S. and abroad. The film's 4K Restoration, funded by the Memorial Foundation for Jewish Culture and Sundance, had its World Premiere at the NY Jewish Film Festival in 2022. The recipient of a Guggenheim Fellowship and three grants from the National Endowment for the Humanities, Steve is currently working on *Praying With My Legs*, a feature-length documentary on the life, thought and transformative impact of religious thinker and human rights activist Abraham Joshua Heschel.



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### **Dr. Galeet Dardashti**

Dr. Galeet Dardashti is an Anthropologist, vocalist, and composer who has earned a reputation as a trail-blazing advocate for Middle Eastern and North African Jewish culture. Her scholarly publications examine Israeli music/media and Mizrahi cultural politics in Israel and the US; she has held postdoctoral fellowships at NYU and Rutgers, Assistant Professor positions at JTS and NYU and she will be a Fellow at University of Pennsylvania's Katz Center in 2024. She is widely known as leader/founder of the all-woman Sephardi/Mizrahi ensemble Divahn, and through her multi-disciplinary commission, *The Naming*; her upcoming release, *Monajat*, (supported by Indiana University, MFJC, and FJC) comes out in September.



### **Prof. Danny Fainstein**

Prof. Danny Fainstein is the Dean and professor of Jewish Studies at the Universidad Hebraica in Mexico City. He is also a member of the MFJC Board of Trustees.



### **Dr. Laura Shaw Frank**

Dr. Laura Shaw Frank is the National Director of the William Petschek Contemporary Jewish Life Department at American Jewish Committee (AJC). She holds a PhD in Jewish history from the University of Maryland, College Park, and undergraduate and law degrees from Columbia University. She is a member of the MFJC Board of Trustees.



### **Rabbi Dr. Jeni S. Friedman**

Rabbi Dr. Jeni S. Friedman is CEO of the Memorial Foundation for Jewish Culture. She was ordained by the Jewish Theological Seminary of America and earned her PhD in Education and Jewish Studies from NYU. A Wexner Graduate Fellow/Davidson scholar, she has done extensive research on the development of clergy education and the formation of Jewish identity. Jeni speaks frequently on global Jewish peoplehood, and the creation of a passionate and purposeful life for Jews in the Diaspora and Israel.



### **Sienna Girgenti**

Sienna Girgenti is a high-impact program strategist and relationship builder who is passionate about hosting. She currently serves as network coordinator of the Nahum Goldmann Fellowship, where she supports program development and network engagement for more than 1,100 NGF Global Network members and their post-Fellowship involvement. In her full-time capacity, Sienna leads the design and execution of convenings for a portfolio of Jewish organizations as managing director of Scott Circle Events. Sienna holds a Bachelor of Arts in International Studies from the American University and resides in Washington, DC.

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### **Dr. Eric Goldman**

Dr. Eric Goldman is a film historian and educator who lectures and writes on Jewish, Yiddish, and Israeli cinema. He is adjunct professor of cinema at Yeshiva University and instructor at the Streicker Academy for Adult Jewish Learning in New York City. He hosts “Jewish Cinematheque” on the Jewish Broadcasting Service, telecast in the U.S. and live streamed across the globe on jbstv.org.



### **Yossi Klein Halevi**

Yossi Klein Halevi is a senior fellow at the Shalom Hartman Institute in Jerusalem, where he co-directs the Institute's Muslim Leadership Initiative. He is the author of The New York Times bestseller Letters to My Palestinian Neighbor, as well as Memoirs of a Jewish Extremist, At the Entrance to the Garden of Eden and Like Dreamers, which won the Jewish Book Council's Everett Book of the Year Award.



### **David Jacobson**

David is the Associate Director of the MFJC and a proud alum of multiple NGF programs. In his former job as Executive Director of the Cape South African Jewish Board of Deputies, David drove the creation of a local NGF program that activated connection and engagement across uncharted diversity in Cape Town. David lives a life of conscious purpose in a small suburb of Cape Town with his NGF Alumna wife, Heidi and his two children Leib and Akiva.



### **Rabbi Dr. Samuel Lebens**

Rabbi Dr. Samuel Lebens is a professor in the Philosophy department at the University of Haifa, and a dynamic Jewish educator. He holds a PhD in Philosophy from Birkbeck College (University of London) and held postdoctoral positions at the University of Notre Dame and Rutgers.



### **David Moss**

David Moss is a “Mitzvah Beautifier” and artist whose work gives fresh, creative expression to Jewish texts, ideas and values. Best known for his revival of the art of the hand-made Ketubah, his Haggadah, and the Tree of Life Shtender with Noah Greenberg, he also works in diverse media, including calligraphy, illumination, papercuts, sculpture, wood, prints, artist books, architecture, pottery, drama, educational programming and others. He is one of the co-founders of Kol HaOt- a Jerusalem based organization dedicated to Jewish Education through the arts, where he serves as senior mentor as well. He is also the Senior Director of the Legacy Heritage Teachers Institute for the Arts - a year-long professional development program for Jewish day school teachers to harness the power of the arts and creativity to deepen Jewish learning. Through his "Minyan" program he is continually creating original, limited edition works of 'teachable art' for individual and institutional subscribers.



### **Dr. Channa Pinchasi**

Dr. Channa Pinchasi is a research fellow at the Kogod Research Center for Contemporary Jewish Thought at the Shalom Hartman Institute. In addition, Channa leads and facilitates think tanks at the Center for Judaism and State Policy. She initiated and directs Cheder Mishelach 2.0, a leadership program for outstanding religious feminist women. She is also a staff member of Ad He'na, a writing seminar for Russian-speaking Israelis. In 2022, Channa completed seven years as director of the Be'eri School for Teacher Education.



### **Elyssa Moss Rabinowitz**

Elyssa Moss Rabinowitz is a veteran experiential Jewish educator who constructs worlds of Jewish meaning and beauty. Elyssa is co-founder and Executive Director of Kol HaOt -- Illuminating Jewish Life through Art, a Jerusalem-based organization dedicated to weaving the magic of the arts into Jewish educational experiences. The Kol HaOt Center hosts workshops, gallery exhibits, performing arts, and an artist-in-residence program. She also serves as the director of their flagship program, the Legacy Heritage Teacher Institute for the Arts, a year-long PD program for North American Day School teachers.



### **Adam Waddell**

Adam Waddell was born in the US to an American dad and an Israeli mom. His mother is a retired school teacher and his father a retired Navy Chaplain. Adam grew up in a mixed faith home and attended both church and synagogue. Three years into a college degree he felt the need to find personal growth and made aliyah in 2005. He joined the IDF and returned to school. Adam holds a degree in Marine and Environmental Sciences. The love for nature has led him to study the ecology of man and believes that the best way to create change is through education. With his endless curiosity and desire to make a difference, Adam chose to become a tour guide. He has been guiding both locally and nationally for over 10 years. Adam has come to re-explore the stories of his youth through the beautiful natural landscapes of the Galilee. Traveling and reading the Holy books has made these stories come alive. Adam lives in the Jordan Valley, on the banks of the Jordan River, just south of the Sea of Galilee. He lives on Kibbutz Bet Zera with his wife and three children. Adam participated in NGF 21 and Regional NGF in 2011.



### **Prof. Steven Windmueller**

Prof. Steven Windmueller is an American scholar and Jewish communal professor, Prof. Emeritus, Contemporary Political issues and American Jewish Affairs, Hebrew Union College – Jewish Institute of Religion. He is currently working on a book - "21st Century American Judaism" - for the University of Southern California.

The Nahum Goldman Fellowship is a program of  
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