

MEMORIAL FOUNDATION
FOR JEWISH CULTURE

**34TH INTERNATIONAL
NAHUM GOLDMANN
FELLOWSHIP**

STELLENBOSCH, SOUTH AFRICA
August 26 - September 1, 2024

Authenticity, Courage, and Belonging:
New Paradigms
for the Jewish Communal Future

We are grateful to Rael Kaimowitz, MFJC Vice President, SAJBD representative to the MFJC, for his support and dedication which helped make this NGF a reality.

We are also appreciative of the assistance we have received from the SAJBD and the local Cape Town Jewish community.

Monday, August 26 | 22 Av

3:00 - 4:00 PM	NGF 34 Arrival, Registration, and Check in
4:00 PM	Welcome and introduction to the MFJC Jeni S. Friedman Introduction to NGF 34 David Jacobson
5:00 - 6:30 PM	Leadership in response to crisis Rachel Sabath Beit-Halachmi
7:00 - 8:00 PM	Dinner
8:15 - 9:15 PM	Human Barometer and <i>Kvutzot</i>
9:30 PM	<i>Ma'ariv</i>

Tuesday, August 27 | 23 Av

7:00 AM	Power Yoga Gabriel Cohen Henriquez
7:45 AM	<i>Shacharit</i>
8:30 - 9:30 AM	Breakfast
9:30 - 11:00 AM	Jewish identity in a polarized post-modern world Danny Fainstein
11:00 - 11:30 AM	Coffee break
11:30 - 1:00 PM	The end of Jewish exceptionalism: revisiting the Jewish contract with America and global implications Steven Windmueller
1:00 - 2:00 PM	Lunch

*Attendance: **Required**/Optional

2:00 - 4:00 PM

Workshops A - Session 1

Israeli music: Shifts in national culture and identity

Galeet Dardashti

Jewish identity through the lens of cinema

Eric Goldman

The limits of inclusivity and belonging: Baruch Spinoza as a case study

Danny Fainstein

Jewish resilience: how the Jewish past can inform a thriving Jewish future

Laura Shaw Frank

On being chosen

Sam Lebens

4:00 - 4:45 PM

Coffee Break

5:30 PM

Mincha/Ma'ariv

6:00 - 7:00 PM

Jews on the move: Where will Jews be geographically concentrated in the future?

Dan Brotman

Invoking *doykeit* (hereness) and diaspora as a means of understanding our responsibilities as Jewish people living on indigenous lands

Sterling Stutz

7:00 - 8:00 PM

Dinner

8:15 - 9:30 PM

Snapshot of the South African Jewish community

Wendy Kahn and Adam Mendelsohn

9:30 - 10:00 PM

Kvutzot

*Attendance: **Required**/Optional

7:00 AM	Guided Meditation Daniel Gindis
7:45 AM	<i>Shacharit</i>
8:30 - 9:30 AM	Breakfast
9:30 - 11:00 AM	<i>Kol Yisrael Arevim: Israel - diaspora mutual responsibility</i> Rachel Sabath Beit-Halachmi and Channa Pinchasi
11:00 - 11:30	Coffee break
11:30 - 12:30 PM	<i>Kol Yisrael Arevim: Israel - diaspora mutual responsibility</i> Rachel Sabath Beit-Halachmi and Channa Pinchasi
12:45 - 1:45 PM	Lunch
2:00 - 4:00 PM	<u>Workshops A - Session 2</u> Israeli music: Shifts in national culture and identity Galeet Dardashti Jewish identity through the lens of cinema Eric Goldman The limits of inclusivity and belonging: Baruch Spinoza as a case study Danny Fainstein Jewish resilience: how the Jewish past can inform a thriving Jewish future Laura Shaw Frank On being chosen Sam Lebens

4:00 - 4:45 PM	Coffee break
5:30 PM	<i>Mincha/Ma'ariv</i>
6:00 - 7:00 PM	Reflections in action: identity, belonging, and mental wellness in Jewish leadership JessAnn Smith Exploring the role of motivation in Jewish community work Avishag Ohayon
7:00 - 9:00 PM	Braai & Drumming SA
9:00 - 9:30 PM	<i>Kvutzot</i>

Thursday, August 29 | 25 Av

7:00 AM	Power Yoga Gabriel Cohen Henriquez
7:15 AM	<i>Shacharit</i>
8:00 - 9:00 AM	Breakfast
9:00 - 10:30 AM	Jewish identities for the 21st century Laura Shaw Frank, Menachem Rosensaft, and Charisse Zeifert
10:30 - 11:00 AM	Coffee break
11:00 - 12:00 PM	Jewish identities for the 21st century Laura Shaw Frank, Menachem Rosensaft, and Charisse Zeifert
12:00 - 1:00 PM	Lunch
1:00 - 3:00 PM	<u>Workshops B - Session 1</u> The Israel-Palestinian conflict in film Eric Goldman Sepharadi/Mizrahi music: from pulpit to pop chart Galeet Dardashti Jewish power and powerlessness Steven Windmueller

*Attendance: **Required**/Optional

5:00 - 6:30 PM	Tour of South African Jewish Museum and Cape Town Holocaust and Genocide Centre
5:30 PM	<i>Mincha/Ma'ariv</i>
6:30 - 7:30 PM	Dinner
7:45 - 8:45 PM	The International Court of Justice and the International Criminal Court Jonathan Arkush, Karen Milner, and Menachem Rosensaft
9:00 PM	Bus departs for Devon Valley Hotel

Friday, August 30 | 26 Av

7:00 AM	Guided Meditation Daniel Gindis
7:45 AM	<i>Shacharit</i>
8:30 - 9:30 AM	Breakfast in Kvutzot
9:30 - 11:00 AM	New philosophies of Zionism Sam Lebens
11:00 - 11:30 AM	Coffee break
11:30 AM - 12:45 PM	Culture as a response to trauma and transformation Channa Pinchasi
12:45 - 1:45 PM	Lunch
2:00 - 4:00 PM	<u>Workshops B - Session 2</u> The Israel-Palestinian conflict in film Eric Goldman Sepharadi/Mizrahi music: from pulpit to pop chart Galeet Dardashti Jewish power and powerlessness Steven Windmueller

*Attendance: **Required**/Optional

4:00 PM	Coffee break
5:45 - 6:00 PM	NGF 34 group photograph
6:00 - 6:30 PM	<i>Hachana L'Shabbat</i> (Shabbat preparation) and Candle Lighting
6:30 - 8:00 PM	<i>Kabbalat Shabbat and Ma'ariv</i> with <i>D'var Torah</i> by MFJC President Jonathan Arkush
8:00 - 10:00 PM	Shabbat dinner and <i>oneg shabbat</i>
10:00 - 11:00 PM	<i>Tisch with Galeet Dardashti</i>
Saturday, August 31 27 Av	
8:00 - 9:00 AM	Breakfast
8:45 - 11:30 AM	<i>Shabbat morning services</i>
9:00 - 10:00 AM	<i>Burning Psalms: Confronting Adonai after Auschwitz</i> Menachem Rosensaft
10:15 - 11:15 AM	<i>Honoring our parents: everything we didn't dare ask</i> Channa Pinchasi
12:00 - 1:30 PM	Communal kiddush and lunch
1:45 - 3:15 PM	Three texts: Three contexts Rachel Sabath Beit-Halachmi, Danny Fainstein, and Sam Lebens
4:15 - 4:45 PM	<i>Mincha</i>
4:45 - 5:45 PM	Text Study Sam Lebens
6:00 - 7:00 PM	<i>Seudah Sh'lishit</i>
7:00 - 7:30 PM	<i>Ma'ariv and Havdallah</i>
<i>Shabbat ends: 7:06 PM</i>	
7:30 - 9:00 PM	NGF 34 Trivia and Talent Night Dane Stern and team

*Attendance: **Required**/Optional

Sunday, September 1 | 28 Av

7:45 AM

Shacharit

8:00 - 9:00 AM

Breakfast and check out

9:00 - 10:45 AM

***Hakarat HaTov*, where to from here?**

NGF Network opportunities

Sienna Girgenti

11:00 AM

Bus 1 departs

***L'Hitraot* NGF 34!**

Fellow Led Electives

Tuesday, August 27

Jews on the move: Where will Jews be geographically concentrated in the future?

Dan Brotman

Since my birth in 1986, Jewish migration patterns have evolved significantly, resulting in mass emigration from certain countries and a resulting over-concentration of Jewish populations in just a few countries. This shift prompts us to examine how these patterns emerged, and to consider how immigration might reshape the Jewish world in the coming decades, as the global economic and political landscape changes?

Invoking *doykeit* (hereness) and diaspora as a means of understanding our responsibilities as Jewish people living on Indigenous lands

Sterling Stutz

How can we as Jews living on Indigenous lands be in good relationship with Indigenous communities and Nations while also drawing upon Jewish rituals, cultures, and histories to guide us in this work? Building from theories and frameworks by Indigenous Elders, Knowledge Keepers and scholars, I will explore the Bundist concept of *doykeit* (hereness), which celebrates and demands an embracing of the diaspora, as a lens through which to consider our responsibilities as guests living on Indigenous lands in so-called Canada. At a time of rising antisemitism and unhealed intergenerational trauma in Jewish communities, we need to consider how we can heal ourselves and Jews and our communities and work to be in true relationship with Indigenous communities and Nations according to the treaty responsibilities that we are all bound by.

Wednesday. August 28

Reflection in action: Identity, belonging and mental wellness in Jewish leadership

JessAnn Smith

This session explores the intersection of identity, belonging, and mental wellness through a Jewish lens. Using small group discussions, art therapy techniques and reflective exercises, participants will explore the impact of their individual identities, confront implicit biases, and brainstorm actionable steps to gain a greater awareness of how to create and lead more inclusive, resilient programming within their Jewish communities.

Exploring the role of motivation in Jewish community work

Avishag Ohayon

Looking at the way that self-determination theory can help focus our programming goals.

NGF 34 New Fellows



Orli Barnett

Orli is the director of education at the Cape Town Holocaust and Genocide Centre, South Africa. She grew up in the Cape Town Jewish community and was involved in the Habonim Dror youth movement for many years. Orli lived in Israel for several years, where she studied for a master's degree in maritime civilizations and later a master's degree in Holocaust Studies (both at the University of Haifa). She also trained at Yad Vashem Holocaust Memorial Museum. Orli is passionate about empowering youth and teachers by critically engaging with Holocaust history and the lessons for humanity that emerge.



Daniel Bloch

Daniel, from South Africa, was educated at Herzlia School and carries a matric certificate. He holds a national diploma and a bachelor of technology degree in sports management from the Cape Peninsula University of Technology. Since 2021 he has served as the executive director of the Cape South African Jewish Board of Deputies where he protects the civil and religious rights of more than 12,500 Jewish community members. He spent the previous 15 years working in the events industry organizing international and local conferences and exhibitions. Daniel has been serving on the Green and Sea Point Hebrew Congregation management committee since 2017 and is its current vice president. He also served on the United Herzlia Schools Board of Governors. Daniel has a passion for sport, food and community, and is married with two young children.



Dan Brotman

Dan is the outgoing executive director of the Windsor Jewish Federation and Community Centre in Windsor, Canada. Originally from Boston, he spent most of his adult life living in South Africa, where he worked in advocacy roles on behalf of the South African Jewish community. He launched a travel education company, which took nearly 1,000 South African business leaders around the world to learn about innovation. In order to bolster Windsor's shrinking Jewish community numbers, Dan launched a successful newcomer program to revitalize the aging community with younger Jewish immigrants. This September, he will move to the UK to pursue a master's degree focused on international migration.



Adam Charnas

Adam is an analyst at the South African Jewish Board of Deputies. There his responsibilities include documenting and researching antisemitism and representing the community in media responses. He has held executive positions in companies dealing primarily in research and due diligence, with a core focus on sub-Saharan Africa. Previously Adam lived for 15 years in Israel, where he studied at Ben Gurion University and was a fellow at the Jewish People Policy Institute in Jerusalem.

NGF 34 New Fellows



Sarah Drukarch

Sarah is a lawyer and partner in a well-established full-service business law firm in Zurich, Switzerland. She mainly advises on intellectual property law, with a particular focus on the life sciences industry. After graduating from public high school, Sarah spent a year in a midrasha in Israel, diving into the depths of Jewish sources and fostering her passion for studying Jewish texts. Sarah serves as the vice-chair of the compliance and audit committee of the biggest Jewish community in Switzerland. In addition, Sarah is a member of the committee organizing regular scholar-in-residence weekends in the Minyan she regularly attends. Sarah likes to sing, bike, and ski.



Yael Feinblum

Yael Feinblum is a South African born Israeli. After receiving her master's in Jewish history from Bar-Ilan University, Yael joined the high-tech scene where she is currently a people manager for a team of technical writers. While working, Yael has continued studying, most recently group facilitation. She is most proud of her TED Talk at work about breaking the stigmas surrounding mental health, and currently volunteers at Mental Health First Aid Israel. Yael tries to get in yoga every day, catch at least one sunrise a week, and loves live music.



Daniel Gindis

Daniel was born in the USA and currently lives in Tel Aviv. He is an entrepreneur, educator, and community activist. Daniel is the director of Ambassador Academy, an education company which works across Israel teaching students English, public speaking, and critical thinking skills. Daniel is also a co-founder of Kerem House, a Jewish community focused organization which runs events, provides volunteering opportunities, and coordinates services for olim and young professionals in Tel Aviv and Jerusalem. Daniel recently ran for a seat on the Tel Aviv Municipality with the Maaminim party. While Daniel didn't make it onto the council (He was #6 on the party list) he looks forward to continuing to be very involved and working for the interests of olim and young professional communities.



Aliyah Jacobson

Aliyah, originally from Austin, Texas, spent 10 years in NYC, where she studied and received her bachelor's degree in early childhood education and music. She spent one year in Israel participating in MASA Israel's Teaching Fellows program. Aliyah was the West Side director for Manhattan Jewish Experience, served on the board of Chabad Young Professionals of Brooklyn, and was a CAMERA on Campus writing intensive fellow for two years. Her published articles have appeared in the Brooklyn College Vanguard, Times of Israel, Jewish News Syndicate, and on CAMERA on Campus' website. She is now working for the Israel American Coalition as an assistant Keshet teacher.

NGF 34 New Fellows



Jessica Jantjies

Jessica resides at Moishe House, Cape Town. She is pursuing a degree in government and diplomacy at Reichman University. Jessica is a copy writer and digital marketer. She dedicated three years to youth leadership with the Netzer Progressive Youth Movement and participated in the Shnat gap-year program in Israel. Jessica volunteered at a local soup kitchen and taught English to asylum-seekers and refugees in South Tel Aviv. She also works with young girls and at-risk youth.



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 piloted by the Executive Council of Australian Jewry in co-educational 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.



Ezra Moses

Ezra holds the position of senior lead, Strategic Planning and Grants, at UJA-Federation of New York. He oversees grant portfolios on: community development in Europe and the former Soviet Union; shared society in Israel; and Jewish religious pluralism in Israel. After receiving his bachelor's degree from McGill University, he served as a Jewish Service Corps Fellow with the Joint Distribution Committee in Kharkiv, Ukraine, and Tbilisi, Georgia. While there he initiated Active Jewish Teen, a youth movement with over 50 chapters across the region. Ezra then went on to earn master's degrees in public administration and Hebrew and Judaic studies from New York University. Ezra and his wife, Hannah, live on the Upper East Side of Manhattan and enjoy traveling.



Avishag Ohayon

After graduating from the University of Oxford with a degree in Jewish studies, Avishag held a broad range of roles in education and community building in the UK, Israel, New York, and the Netherlands before finally landing in Finland. She is the Jewish program director in Helsinki's Jewish community. Avishag coordinates, designs, and offers formal and informal education to community members. She develops curriculum for bnei mitzvah and adult discussion groups, arranges Shabbat dinners with light Jewish education, organizes tefila education and school theme days.

NGF 34 New Fellows



Saul Reichman

Saul, from Germany, serves as global director of Innovation & Corporate Venturing at Maxion Wheels and as head of Maxion Advanced Technologies (MAT). He holds an MBA and a PhD in Physical Chemistry from Tel Aviv University. In recent years, he has been active in German-Israeli collaborations: Innovation Network Cologne (INC), German Israeli Future Forum, Bertelsmann Stiftung - German-Israeli Young Leaders Exchange, and KKL JNF - Young Leadership Development (greenXchange). He enjoys hiking, Mysore-style yoga, scuba diving, photography, learning languages and writing on topics related to innovation and technology trends.



Tamar Remz

Tamar is the founder and president of The Palm Collective, a private community of individuals involved in leadership-level Jewish and Israel giving. Additionally, Tamar serves as senior advisor to the Harold Grinspoon Foundation. Tamar's current board service includes Hillel International, Moishe House, Educational Alliance, and the Constructive Dialogue Institute. Prior to holding a professional role in philanthropy, Tamar worked in e-commerce. Tamar received her bachelor's and master's degrees from New York University. Tamar lives in New York City, though you will regularly find her at Shabbat dinner tables across the world.



Adam Rosenwasser

Adam serves as the senior rabbi at Temple Emanuel in Maryland, USA. He received rabbinical ordination from the Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion and his bachelor's degree in history from the University of Michigan. Adam enjoys teaching Torah using a wide array of texts, making worship engaging and fulfilling, advocating for a just and peaceful Israel, facilitating mussar (Jewish ethics) classes, and working for justice locally and globally. His other interests include musical theater, cooking and baking, swimming, reading, and raising his three children together with his husband.



Isaiah Rothstein

Isaiah serves as rabbinic scholar and public affairs advisor at Jewish Federations of North America. Prior to JFNA, Isaiah was rabbi-in-residence at Adamah, Isabella Freedman, and Be'chol Lashon. He also served as a rabbi for youth at Carmel Academy, Young Israel of Stamford, NCSY, and Camp Yavneh. Isaiah studied at Kushner Yeshiva High School, Lev HaTorah, Machon Lev, and Binghamton University, and received rabbinic ordination and a master's of social work from Yeshiva University. Raised in a multi-racial Chabad family from Monsey, NY, he sees himself as a human bridge, connecting disparate parts of the Jewish community and America.

NGF 34 New Fellows



Nadia Schraier

Nadia from Buenos Aires, Argentina has a postgraduate degree in Art, Communication, and Memory from FLACSO. Nadia serves as the coordinator of the Art and Production Department of AMIA and is responsible for programs, projects, and training which blend art and memory. She recently undertook fundraising with the AMIA Art and Solidarity Project. Nadia strives to preserve Jewish tradition and roots by instilling the importance of memory across generations, combating the erosion of history.



Naava Shafner

Naava, from Jerusalem, is a distinguished storyteller, activist, and strategic consultant. Her initiatives in women's rights, notably the establishment of ImaKadima, have garnered international acclaim, culminating in legislative reforms and recognition on the prestigious #Haddassah18 list. Currently serving as the director of strategic development at Magen crisis center and leading development at Social Delivery, Naava continues to drive meaningful change and inspire others with her unwavering commitment to social justice. She holds a bachelor's degree in political science and is a climate sustainability specialist.



Darina Sirkis

Darina, from Hanover, Germany, is studying law at Leibniz University Hanover. She organizes educational activities for members of her community of all ages. Darina also works with the refugee population in Hanover. She is an intern for a legal protection insurance company and works as a leader of the Jewish youth club CHAI Hanover.



JessAnn Smith

JessAnn is a queer Jewish educator, producer, and teaching artist based in NYC. In addition to her current role as Teen + Tween program coordinator at the Marlene Meyerson JCC Manhattan, she is a contract trainer for Keshet and a co-producer with Thank You For Coming Out. JessAnn is currently pursuing an MSW degree at Wurzweiler School of Social Work in New York and a graduate certificate in outdoor and adventure therapeutic practice at University of the Highlands and Islands in Scotland. In her spare time, JessAnn enjoys travel and cold-water swimming.



Dane Stern

Dane plays an active role in Sydney's Jewish community. He is a director of the New South Wales Jewish Board of Deputies, chairing the Shoah Remembrance Committee. He is also co-founder of the annual commemoration of Jewish refugees from Arab lands and Iran. Dane is an adviser to the Executive Council of Australian Jewry and volunteers for Limmud Sydney. In 2020, Dane won the Australian Jewish Change-maker Award for young adult contribution to the Jewish community. He works as a data scientist at a consulting firm and has degrees in both law and commerce (majoring in actuarial studies). He is a trivia nerd who has appeared on three TV quiz shows.

NGF 34 New Fellows



Sterling Stutz

Sterling is completing her PhD at the University of Toronto investigating the relationship between antisemitism and Jewish community health and wellbeing. Sterling was raised on Treaty 13 territory in Toronto and now splits her time between Toronto and Michi Saagiig Anishinaabe territory near Nogojiwanong (Peterborough, Ontario) and is an active member of the Jewish community in both cities. Sterling completed a master's of public health in Indigenous health at the University of Toronto and currently works as a research officer at the Waakebiness Institute of Indigenous Health and is a course instructor at University of Toronto on courses related to Canadian Jewish history and contemporary contexts.

NGF Network Leadership Seminar Cohort 7



Gabriel Cohen Henriquez

Gabriel, from Panama, owns a label manufacturing business. He also manages an investment portfolio. In addition to his professional pursuits, Gabriel is an avid yoga practitioner with over 25 years of experience. Gabriel is active in his community. He serves as a board member of the Isaac Rabin School and as a member of the Jewish Diplomatic Corps of the World Jewish Congress. Gabriel is a past president of the B'nai B'rith Carlos Zelenka chapter. In his free time, he enjoys reading, kitesurfing, hiking, and traveling. Gabriel lives in Panama City with his wife and son.



Ryan Davis

Ryan lives in Johannesburg, South Africa, where he grew up in a proudly Jewish family and held leadership roles in a youth movement. He is a people development consultant and coach, and founded Next Peak, partnering with diverse global organizations and communities, advising, designing, and implementing innovative solutions that enhance performance. He volunteers in various nonprofits focused on education, sustainable impact, international development, and leadership. He recently co-chaired Limmud Johannesburg and sits on Limmud's National Executive. Ryan graduated from UPenn with a certificate in Social Impact Strategy and participated in the Global Social Impact House Fellowship.



Jorge Gershon

Jorge, from Seville, Spain, organizes Jewish events and activities in Andalusia. He holds a diploma in Tourism from the University of Seville. Jorge is a leader in Beit Rambam - the Jewish community center of Seville. He is also active in the Spanish branch of ROI.



Isaac Landes

Isaac, originally from the USA, now lives in Israel. He founded and directs the Classic Talmud Program at Yashrut, a liberal Orthodox yeshiva in Jerusalem. Isaac studied at Yeshivat Har Etzion (the Gush) and completed the five-year Hesder program. He is working on a PhD in history at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. Isaac is a Fellow at Yeshivat Chovevei Torah's Project Rikmah and organizes events for Abu Tor's Young Families project. He lives in Jerusalem with his wife and two children.



Nikki Marczak

Nikki from Brisbane, Australia works in the field of atrocity prevention in the Asia Pacific. This includes policy, advocacy and program development, research and writing, early warning and risk assessment, and partnership building. Nikki was co-editor of the Genocide Perspectives series and has contributed to a range of publications, including the Jewish Australian outlet Plus61J, and ABC Religion and Ethics. Nikki served on the Board of the National Council for Jewish Women Australia and remains chair of its Combatting Hate committee. As the granddaughter of Holocaust survivors, she has been involved in many events and initiatives relating to Holocaust commemoration and education, including as keynote speaker.

NGF Network Leadership Seminar Cohort 7



Eli Ovits

Eli, originally from London, now lives in Jerusalem where he serves as founder of Altruists - connecting Jewish leaders and philanthropists with meaningful causes. He has worked on every continent, helping connect communities, educators, and entrepreneurs. Committed to lifelong learning, Eli always seeks to explore new opportunities for collaboration - whether it be between the Abraham Accords countries and Israel, people of different faiths or political persuasion. Eli holds a master's degree in international relations — diplomacy from the Hebrew University of Jerusalem.



Vivianne Tesone

Vivianne, from Colombia, is the deputy director of the Colombian Jewish Federation, the country's umbrella organization of Jewish communities. She is also the editor of Hashavua online magazine. Vivianne holds a degree in literature from the Universidad de los Andes, and master's degrees in journalism and religions and culture and peace. She is a member of the Jewish Diplomatic Corps of the World Jewish Congress and has worked and volunteered with other Jewish organizations. Her focus is on interfaith initiatives, education, combating antisemitism, Holocaust remembrance, diplomacy, and advocacy.



Tammy Weiss

Tammy, from Buenos Aires, is a lawyer. In addition to her law degree, she has degrees in Jewish and Judeo-American studies, and Arabic, American-Arab and Islamic studies. Tammy has been a volunteer for the World Zionist Organization and the Holocaust Museum. She was a member of the board of directors of the Argentine Zionist organization. Tammy now serves on the board of the Association of Jewish Lawyers of the Argentine Republic. She collaborates with an initiative that distributes food to the homeless and lately with Jaialim del Asado, a group that makes barbecues for IDF soldiers.

NGF 34 Faculty, MFJC Staff and Board Members



Jonathan Arkush

Jonathan Arkush is a barrister and mediator specializing in property, commercial and probate law. He has part-time judicial posts as a Deemster (judge) of the High Court of the Isle of Man and deputy Chancery Master in the High Court of England and Wales.

His communal involvements have included the campaign for Soviet Jewry, chairmanship of his community in Borehamwood & Elstree, chair of governors of Hertsmere Jewish Primary School and vice-chair of the steering group to establish *Yavneh* College, the Jewish secondary school in Borehamwood. He served as President of the Board of Deputies of British Jews from 2015-2018. He continues to be active in the protection and defense of the Jewish traditions of *shechita* (religious slaughter) and *brit milah* (circumcision) both internationally and domestically. He is Chair of the World Jewish Congress Task Force for Religious Freedom and Co-chair of *Milah* UK.

Since 2019 he has been the President of the Memorial Foundation for Jewish Culture. In December 2022 he was awarded the honor of Order of the British Empire (OBE). He is married with 3 children, 2 of whom live in Israel, and 8 grandchildren.



Viv Anstey

Viv Anstey is described as a serial social entrepreneur, being the catalyst for numerous start-ups in the SA Jewish scene. She has had a hand in establishing: The Eliot Osrin Leadership Institute (current director), Melton (director), Limmud SA, Jewish Literary Festival, PJ Library, Tikkun, the SA Jewish Museum and Jewish trauma network. She has a Masters in Social Work, a Masters in Jewish Community Service (Hornstein, Brandeis University) and is recipient of numerous local and international awards including the Eric Samson Mendel Kaplan Communal Service Award in 2021. Viv has served as professional consultant on the national SA Jewish Board Of Deputies, and as lay leader on the Cape Council. She has been an active driver on the CapeTown2040 Vision. Viv has recently been invited to serve on the executive committee of Global Jewry. Her passion lies in Jewish continuity, community, young leadership, Jewish education and leadership development. She is married to Gary and has 2 children Dalit, an ESG lawyer and Benji, a music student and musician.



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.

NGF 34 Faculty, MFJC Staff and Board Members



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 USA; 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) was released in September, 2023.



Dr. Daniel Fainstein

Dr. Danny Fainstein is the dean and a professor of Jewish Studies at the Universidad Hebraica in Mexico City. Dr. Fainstein has been the dean of the Latin American Rabbinical Seminary "M.T. Meyer", director of the Central Council of Jewish Education of the Argentine and a visiting lecturer and advisor in academic and educational institutions in Latin America, Europe, Israel, and the United States. He is also 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.



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.

NGF 34 Faculty, MFJC Staff and Board Members



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 1,300 NGF Global Network members and their post-Fellowship involvement. In her full-time capacity, Sienna leads the design and execution of signature convenings for Meridian International Center as director of the Center for Diplomatic Engagement. Sienna holds a Bachelor of Arts in International Studies from the American University and resides in Washington, DC.



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 USA and livestreamed across the globe on jbstv.org.



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.



Wendy Kahn

Wendy Kahn is the National Director of the South African Jewish Board of Deputies, a position she has held for 18 years. The SAJBD is the representative body of SA Jewry, responsible for upholding the community’s civil and religious rights. She engages with government, political parties, civil society, universities, the media and international Jewry on behalf of the Jewish community. Wendy responds to antisemitic incidents, working with various authorities to ensure that SA retains its relatively low levels of antisemitism. She has been involved in many campaigns building bridges between SA Jewry and the broader South African Society, having spearheaded numerous outreach initiatives uplifting and improving the lives of disadvantaged South Africans. Since Oct 7, Wendy, together with the leadership of the SAJBD have addressed the many challenges facing SA Jewry in the face of an increasingly hostile government. The SA government’s ICJ case and other manifestations of government’s contempt for Israel have had practical implications for local Jewry. The SAJBD has worked to assist the community in addressing these issues.

NGF 34 Faculty, MFJC Staff and Board Members



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 has held postdoctoral positions at the University of Notre Dame and Rutgers.



Professor Adam D. Mendelsohn

Professor Adam D. Mendelsohn is Director of the Kaplan Centre for Jewish Studies and Associate Professor and Head of the Department of History at the University of Cape Town. The Centre, the only of its kind in Africa, conducts research focused on Jews in southern Africa, past and present. He is the author of *Jewish Soldiers in the Civil War: The Union Army* (2022) and *The Rag Race: How Jews Sewed Their Way to Success in America and the British Empire* (2014), and co-editor of *Jews and the Civil War: A Reader* (with Jonathan D. Sarna, 2010), *Transnational Traditions: New Perspectives on American Jewish History* (with Ava Kahn, 2014), and *Yearning to Breathe Free: Jews in Gilded-Age America* (with Jonathan D. Sarna, 2022). He has co-curated exhibitions at the New-York Historical Society, Princeton University Art Museum, and the Center for Jewish History, and is a former editor of the journal *American Jewish History* and currently co-editor of *Jewish Historical Studies*.



Dr. Karen Milner

Dr. Karen Milner is an Associate Professor of Psychology in the School of Human and Community Development at the University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, South Africa. She is registered as an Industrial/Organizational Psychologist with the Health Professions Council of South Africa and her teaching and research interests are in the field of employee well-being and mental health at work. Karen has published extensively in the field of health and wellbeing (including mental health) in the work-place in both local and international journals and has spoken at many local and international conferences on this topic. In 2021, she published the book 'Beyond Tea and Tissues: Protecting and promoting mental health in the workplace'. In addition to her work at the university, Karen is the elected National Chairperson of the SA Jewish Board of Deputies (the representative spokes body for the Jewish community in South Africa). In that role, she has committed herself to fighting all forms of racism and antisemitism in this country.



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 religious feminists.

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Professor Menachem Rosensaft

Professor Menachem Rosensaft was born in 1948 in the Displaced Persons camp of Bergen-Belsen in Germany, the son of two survivors of the Nazi death and concentration camps of Auschwitz and Bergen-Belsen. Rosensaft is Adjunct Professor of law at Cornell Law School, Lecturer-in-Law at Columbia Law School, General Counsel Emeritus of the World Jewish Congress, and a past President of Park Avenue Synagogue in New York City. He teaches about the law of genocide and about antisemitism in the courts and in jurisprudence. Most recently, together with the Grand Mufti of Bosnia and Herzegovina, he launched an initiative for Muslim-Jewish dialogue at the Srebrenica Memorial Center in Bosnia, and he has been featured in numerous major international publications as an outspoken critic of the proceeding brought by South Africa against Israel before the International Court of Justice.



Dr. Steven Windmueller

Dr. Steven Windmueller is the emeritus professor of Jewish Communal Studies at Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion, Los Angeles. He is a leading expert on the subject of Jewish politics and the author of several articles, publications, and books, which includes *The Quest for Power, a Study in Jewish Political Behavior and Practice* published in 2014.



Rabbi Gavi Ziegler

Gavi Ziegler is the principal of Phyllis Jowell Jewish Day School in Cape Town. After moving down from Johannesburg in 2018, he served as the Campus Rabbi of the school until becoming principal in 2023. Gavi twice served as the co-chair of Limmud Johannesburg. He is an alumnus of the Nahum Goldman Fellowship in 2019 and recently completed his studies of Torah education through the Herzog Rimonim Teacher Programme in Israel. Gavi is passionate about education and working with people from all walks of life.



Charisse Zeifert

Charisse Zeifert is the Deputy Director, SA Jewish Board of Deputies. She also heads up communications where she interfaces between the mainstream media and the Jewish community. This includes taking journalist trips to Israel. Charisse hosts a weekly show on the Jewish community radio station, Chai FM. Her show focuses on events happening in the Jewish world. She holds a MA degree in Anthropology and an MA in museum studies.

MFJC weaves together Jewish life, bridging the gaps between diverse voices, fostering understanding, and nurturing the growth of scholarship and artistry.

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