



קרן תקווה
TIKVAH

The Beren Summer Fellowship Research Conference

August 2-4, 2022 | 5-7 Av 5782



A LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

We are very proud to host this culminating conference for our 2022 Beren Summer Fellows. The Beren Fellowship aims to inspire and empower young men and women to lead lives of Jewish purpose and leadership. In their eight weeks of residence with the Tikvah Fund, students learn from great professors, public figures, and religious leaders who straddle the worlds of academic research and active engagement in Jewish affairs. They also undertake an independent research project or internship, suited to their own interests and exposing them to practical challenges faced by Jewish leaders today. Each fellow works directly with a senior figure from Tikvah's wide network of practitioners and scholars.



Exploring topics that range from the future of Jewish education to the US-Israel strategic relationship, and from defending religious liberty to combatting anti-Semitism, our fellows build a foundation for themselves as rising leaders. I invite you to explore the background and the project descriptions of all our 2022 Fellows in the following pages.

Alan Rubenstein
Senior Director

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Zachary Kessel

NORTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY (2023)



ZACH KESSEL, a New Jersey native, is a rising senior at Northwestern University's Medill School of Journalism, where he serves as president of the school's Alexander Hamilton Society chapter. He has anchored the university's cable news-style politics program and worked as an opinion columnist for The Daily Northwestern, a role he used to argue in favor of conservative philosophy and a vigorous defense of the Jewish people. His writings have appeared in several other publications, including The Washington Post and National Review. Zach has completed fellowship and internship programs with the American Enterprise Institute, the Congressional Leadership Fund, and the Hertog Foundation, and spent the past winter as a reporter on Capitol Hill with a focus on the Senate Republican Conference. He is currently a member of the Tikvah-Beren Collegiate Forum and Tikvah's Campus Antisemitism Working Group.

PREPARING JOURNALISTS TO REPORT ON INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Amid the Russian invasion of Ukraine and Chinese bellicosity in the Indo-Pacific region, a new strain of isolationist thought has emerged in the United States. Unlike previous iterations of isolationism on the right — proponents of which argued that the United States, as an exceptional nation, should not lower itself to involvement in other regions' affairs — this new right-wing variant more closely resembles a line of argument made frequently by the Obama administration and its fellow liberal restrainers: That the United States is a fundamentally flawed country and lacks any moral high ground from which to assert itself across the globe. Zach's project, which he completed with the Vandenberg Coalition in Washington, D.C., attempts to counteract both leftist restraint and the burgeoning forces of isolationism within American conservatism. He assisted the Vandenberg Coalition in the development of a fellowship program for young foreign affairs and national security journalists geared toward disabusing these reporters of misguided notions of America's role in the world and creating a network of media figures and outlets through which to promote a robust internationalist American foreign policy. He also conducted analyses of the conservative media ecosystem in order to determine the most frequent and most effective lines of attack emanating from the isolationist right, an undertaking that serves to familiarize advocates for American involvement abroad with the challenges with which they are faced.

Zach Kessel

Jacob Frankel

WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY IN ST. LOUIS (2024)



JACOB FRANKEL is from Cincinnati, Ohio and is currently studying Political Science and Economics at Washington University in St. Louis, doing as much reading as possible with highlights including Locke and Nietzsche, loves to write, and is planning on attending law school after graduating. While at Washington University, Jacob is the editor of the Jewish weekly known as “The Shtick.” He has an acute interest in diplomacy and foreign relations. Last semester, Jacob worked for the Missouri Public Defender’s Office in downtown St. Louis, helping children through the legal system. Jacob has participated in a number of Tikvah programs throughout the years from the Yale seminar to the Collegiate Forum and has found them profound and life-changing. He is interested in Jewish civilization, sovereignty, and prosperity and hopes to pick a career that reflects putting his love of Judaism and Israel at the forefront.

CRISIS SIMULATION: CHINA’S EVOLVING ROLE THROUGH BELT AND ROAD

A China on the rise threatens the dominance of American values in Asia. Jacob has spent the summer researching for Ken Weinstein, a senior fellow at the Hudson Institute, on the effects of the Chinese Belt and Road initiative in Asia paired with declining U.S. global influence. Jacob analyzed how Chinese uses international infrastructure spending to achieve foreign policy objectives. For example, China routinely loans large sums of money to poor countries. Once these countries default on their debt payments, China uses a variety of approaches to either seize territory or to leverage the debt into political or military power.

China is not just a threat economically, but also militarily. They routinely violate the sovereignty of nations in the South China Sea. They have built illegal outposts in disputed territories. The fear of many is that China will use its newly designed chain of bases and economic leverage to achieve hegemony throughout the world, taking the mantle of global dominance from the U.S.

Jacob will present his research through an interactive crisis simulation. Although the results of the simulation will be unknown, the simulation is designed to mimic real-world events and force actors to make decisions as though they are leaders of nations caught between both the United States and China. The simulation will also show the advantages asymmetric information has on the negotiating floor and the sheer difficulty in negotiating with large and wealthy nations. The simulation will also test the resolve of alliances and might reveal instances where future alliances would be prudent.

Jacob Frankel

Jacob Leon

WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY IN ST. LOUIS (2023)



JACOB LEON is a rising senior at Washington University in St. Louis (WashU), where he majors in political science with a minor in the modern Middle East. In WashU's political science department, Jacob served as an Undergraduate Teaching Assistant for a social science methods course and has conducted research on both international terrorism and Israeli-Palestinian violence. In 2021, Jacob was WashU's Israel on Campus Coalition Fellow and Secretary for the WashU Chabad Student Association. Jacob's most recent enterprise has been founding WashU's chapter of the Alexander Hamilton Society, an organization promoting US foreign policy and national security discussion on campus. Jacob began his relationship with Tikvah in 2019 after participating in the Maimonides Scholars Program. He is currently a member of the Tikvah-Beren Collegiate Forum and sits on the Forum's Student Advisory Board.

ISRAEL, CHINA, AND THE UNITED STATES: QUESTIONS OF GRAND STRATEGY

As the United States and China settle into a new Cold War, Israel must balance its burgeoning economic engagement with China and its role as America's regional security partner. A major area of interest is maritime policy: Chinese involvement in the Haifa Port's recent expansion makes the port a possible linchpin of the Belt and Road Initiative, potentially compromising American naval presence in the Mediterranean. Jacob's project situated the port controversy in a comprehensive research exercise. He completed a sweeping curriculum on Chinese strategic thought, maritime strategy, geoeconomics, and China's relationship with Israel and the Middle East. Jacob also participated in Tikvah's weekly Israel-China Working Group, a forum for young policy professionals to discuss and analyze the "China issue" through the US-Israel relationship's lens. Jacob's conference presentation will frame the Israel-China-US maritime dynamic within a synthesized version of his course of study. His deliverable will be a policy paper offering recommendations towards Israel's maritime stance, which he aims to edit and publish in the coming months.

Jacob Leon

Zachary Herrmann

UNIVERSITY OF PUGET SOUND (2022)



ZACHARY HERRMANN is a recent graduate from the University of Puget Sound. Majoring in Religious Studies and BioEthics, Zachary used his education to learn about relationships between various Jewish communities. Before College, Zachary served as the President of NFTY, The Reform Jewish Youth Movement and served as a Youth Representative on the URJ Board. At the University of Puget Sound, Zachary is recognized as a Matelich Scholar, a cohort for esteemed student leaders with ambitious purposes. In 2021, Zachary was given an academic research grant to study the growing rejection of Zionism amongst former participants in URJ Youth programming. Zachary continues to be committed to improving the Reform movement and establishing new ways of engagement for the next generation of American Jewry.

WHY ARE REFORM JEWISH YOUTH TURNING AGAINST ISRAEL?

During the Beren Summer Fellowship, Zachary transformed his previous academic research into an article in an attempt to further spread the findings from his research and emphasize the urgent need to reevaluate progressive Jewish approaches to Israel education. The current state of Israel education within the reform movement not only fails to instill support for the Jewish state, but even catalyzes anti-Israel sentiment through the way Jewish values are interpreted in URJ Youth Programming. Reform Jewish Young Adults consequently consult their progressive Jewish values and reject their association with Reform movement because of its dedication to Zionism. Using this article as a tool for making Reform communities aware of the growing crisis, Zach created a complimentary presentation for the article which he intends to share with audiences from across Reform Jewish lay leadership and the national and congregational level. His conference presentation will be the debut for this presentation.

Alongside this work, Zachary assisted the Combat Antisemitism Movement by providing preliminary research for engaging and partnering with Jewish Youth movements.

Zachary Herrmann

Zoé Tara Zeigherman

GEORGETOWN UNIVERSITY (2023)



ZOÉ TARA ZEIGHERMAN grew up in London and is a junior at Georgetown University, where she studies English and is pursuing minors in Film and Media Studies and Jewish Civilization. On campus, she has been part of the dance team. She has also written and edited for the campus arts and culture magazine. Long term, Zoé Tara is interested in combining her passion for film and Zionism to promote Jewish confidence. During 2021 she moved to Berlin for a year to work in film and became personal assistant to Jewish filmmaker Leo Khasin. She currently serves on the board of Chabad Georgetown.

THE VARIETIES OF ZIONISM AND ANTI-ZIONISM: A NEW FILM PROJECT

Over the summer, Zoé Tara has worked to prepare for the production of a video series that will make former MK Dr. Einat Wilf's college course - *Zionism and Anti-Zionism* - accessible to anybody. Last year Dr. Wilf was a visiting professor at Georgetown University where Zoé Tara was one of her students. This course had a monumental impact on her, providing a framework she is convinced every college campus Jew needs. Entering at the moment of emancipation for European Jews, the course explores Zionist thought and its opposing anti-Zionist ideas in pairs, leading up to the creation of the state of Israel. There is an additional section on secularism, Soviet, and contemporary left wing anti-Zionism. The course syllabus consists solely of primary sources. Reading with contemporary eyes, students gain a sense of how the debate unfolded in real time and how nothing which took place can be understood as the inevitable outcome. As the antisemitism of our time, young Jews need this information to know how the global beast of anti-Zionism was sewn together. This course offers the ability to understand the genealogy of attacks Jews face today while simultaneously generating an empowered appreciation for the vigorous debate and revolution that produced Zionism. It creates excitement and confidence in the modern Jewish project and identity. Zoé Tara will present why this course is so unique and essential to preventing young Jews from feeling that it might be easier to start disavowing Jewish identity. She will also present the vision and production plan for the project.

Dr. Wilf is one of the most powerful and engaging Jewish speakers of our time. She is wildly popular amongst young Jews, inspiring organizations such as The New Zionist Congress and empowering Jewish students on American college campuses despite living in Israel. The series will be produced over the Fall 2022 semester, as part of a Jewish Civilization thesis project. Zoé Tara will interview Dr. Wilf across several episodes, following the structure of the course, focusing on the integrity of the information and making it as stylish as possible: it is time to make Zionism trendy again.

Zoé Tara Zeigherman

Eitan Murinson

NER ISRAEL RABBINICAL COLLEGE & JOHNS HOPKINS UNIVERSITY (2025)



EITAN MURINSON, from Baltimore, Maryland, splits his days between yeshiva studies at Ner Israel Rabbinical College and college studies at Johns Hopkins University. At Hopkins, he's pursuing a double major in Applied Mathematics & Statistics and Economics and runs the Johns Hopkins chapter of TAMID Group—a pre-professional Israeli Consulting and Investing club. When not in school or yeshiva, Eitan is on the staff at two of his local synagogues as the director of youth programming and also teaches teens through Baltimore NCSY. Eitan has been involved in Tikvah since the end of high school and looks forward to continued learning with such a well-oriented organization.

THE NER ISRAEL MODEL FOR EDUCATION AND FORMATION IN THE COLLEGE YEARS

One of the things Jewish parents care most about is educating their children and preparing them to be well equipped in the professional world. As such, for most American Jews an undergraduate degree has become a requirement for entering adulthood. In recent years, modern orthodox Jews have consistently chosen between a few general groupings of pre-professional options: state universities with large Jewish populations, a select few of the Ivy League universities, and Yeshiva University. Each of these options offer significant opportunities but also present challenges for religiously oriented Jews in an ever-shifting secular world.

For his research project, Eitan explored another interesting educational paradigm: Ner Israel Rabbinical College. Both a Yeshiva and a state accredited college, Ner Israel represents an approach that refuses to compromise on a Torah-based education and commitment to Jewish values while also enabling students to choose to pursue training and degrees that prepare them for a professional career. Eitan conducted interviews of Ner Israel students, alumni, faculty, and leadership to craft a white-paper for Tikvah and the Beren family on the unique nature of the Ner Israel educational model, its prospects for continuity, and opportunities to engage with it into the future.

Eitan Murinson

Dylan Kassin

GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY (2024)



DYLAN KASSIN, born and raised in New York City, is an undergraduate student at George Washington University studying International Affairs concentrating in Security Policy with minors in Computer Science and Arabic. Outside of school Dylan works for the Washington Institute for Near East Policy where he conducts fact checking, research, and analysis utilizing reportage and open-source intelligence in Arabic, Hebrew, and Persian regarding topics ranging from terrorism to humanitarian crises. Dylan also founded Electromaim, a start-up aimed at producing clean energy from urban water systems, for which he has received a number of awards including from the Department of Energy's All Energy Tech UP Competition. Dylan hopes to study in Yeshiva in Jerusalem next year followed by a study abroad in Jordan.

THE DEMOGRAPHIC GROWTH OF ARAB AND HAREDI ISRAELIS: THE END OF THE STATUS-QUO?

Demographic studies project that the already influential Haredi and Arab communities in Israel will comprise over 50% of the electorate in the coming decades. How will this change Israeli politics? How does a nation survive — let alone thrive — when over half of its citizens do not necessarily believe it should exist? Previous research on Israeli Haredi and Arab voters remains relatively limited in their scope: asking how “Israeli” they feel or whether they support political priorities often associated with their communities. While interesting, these studies offer few tangible implications regarding what priorities these voters value over other priorities and what they are willing to sacrifice to have some of their political goals achieved. Dylan’s research aims at identifying this balance that demonstrates how the ballot will change. Dylan traveled to Israel in July to interview Arab Israelis and Haredim in order to assess whether ground for the study existed and to retrieve anecdotal findings to write an article on the issue. Dylan hopes this article will garner sufficient interest in the issue to pursue a proper study based on outsourced polls and complementary in-person interviews.

At the conference, Dylan will present 1) his ultimate research question, summarizing the gaps in and lessons from previous research, 2) selected anecdotes of his interviews in Israel that depict his findings, and finally 3) his next steps.

Dylan Kassin

Ilan Eisenberg

YALE UNIVERSITY (2025)



ILAN EISENBERG is a rising sophomore at Yale from the Bay Area. This past year he completed Directed Studies, an intensive program in Western literature, philosophy, and political thought. At Yale, he is a fellow at the William F. Buckley Jr. Program, a student group that promotes intellectual diversity on campus. He is also a member of the Yale Russian Chorus and TAMID, a business club that partners with Israeli startups.

CARSON V. MAKIN: RELIGIOUS LIBERTY IN CONTEXT

America is a unique environment for Jewish flourishing, thanks in no small part to its commitment to religious liberty. Since colonial times, Americans have enshrined toleration into their legal codes, and the right to practice religion has become an inseparable part of the American project. But the lofty ideals of religious liberty are also a practical matter, one whose actualization has proven to be controversial in every moment in American society. Decades of Supreme Court rulings have restricted religious expression in public, but at a time when the cultural tide seems to be ever liberalizing, the Supreme Court has recently pushed back against the trend. A spate of influential rulings in the past couple of years have expanded the role that religion can play in public life, and these developments in the interpretation of the Constitution's religion clauses are of particular interest to the Jewish community.

Ilan has been working with the Jewish Coalition for Religious Liberty and the Becket Fund on a legal research and lobbying project centered around a recent travel ban for military personnel. He studied the history of religious liberty with Dr. Phillip Muñoz and worked with Rabbi Mitchell Rocklin and Howie Slugh to draft a memo to members of Congress which uses legal precedent to argue against the regulation's legality. Ilan will present his research as part of a larger discussion about the state of religious liberty in America. He will introduce the fundamentals of religious liberty law in analyzing what the future holds for the Jewish community.

Ilan Eisenberg

Eva Yarsky

THE COLLEGE OF NEW JERSEY (2022)



EVA YARSKY, a New York City native, has just finished the undergraduate portion of the 7-year medical program at The College of New Jersey/Rutgers New Jersey Medical School. At TCNJ, Eva volunteered at local Trenton food kitchens and taught ESL classes. She was a member of the crew team and enjoys recreational tennis. Prior to continuing to medical school, Eva is taking a gap year to pursue her interests in behavioral therapy. She is currently working as a Registered Behavior Technician (RBT) helping children on the autism spectrum develop motor and social skills.

REVISITING JEWISH SOURCES ON ABORTION AFTER DOBBS

With the reversal of Roe v. Wade, Jewish communities must re-evaluate their position and understanding of abortion in America. When the Dobbs case ruled that abortion was not protected by the fourteenth amendment, there was massive pushback from both secular and nonsecular organizations. Eva's project will do a deep dive into what the Dobbs decision means regarding Jewish abortion Halakha and evaluate why so many Jews opposed it. With a focus on Peninei Halakha- Simhat Ha-bayit U-virkhato, Eva will create a synopsis of the multitude of interpretations surrounding the Jewish (i.e. Orthodox) understanding of abortion.

The second half of Eva's project addresses abortion in education. Because the conversation about abortion has become so pervasive, Eva will be examining how Modern Orthodox Jewish Day Schools teach bioethics topics. After interviewing leading educators at Jewish Day Schools across the country, she will create a series of teaching source sheets for the most pressing issues in bioethics.

Eva Yarsky

Juliana Castillo

UNIVERSITY OF DELAWARE (2025)



JULIANA CASTILLO is a Eugene du Pont Scholar and Honors College student at the University of Delaware, studying philosophy and religion. For the 2021-22 school year, she was a Communications Intern at the Caesar Rodney Institute, Delaware's only State Policy Network affiliate policy institute. She was a Summer Fellow with the Hertog Institute's Summer Courses in 2021, and is a member of the Tikvah Collegiate Forum Advisory Board. She also worked as a transcriptionist, editor, music teacher, academic tutor, and line cook. In high school, she studied viola at the Juilliard School Pre-College and the Perlman Music Program.

OPTIONS FOR JEWISH EDUCATION: TAKING A FRESH LOOK AFTER THE DISRUPTIONS OF COVID

Doubts about the competence of traditional American education have been rising over the past decade and have been exacerbated by COVID-19. Though many religious families have cheerfully sent their children through traditional educational paths, families today have many more considerations and may be tempted to shift into entirely faith-oriented education. Juliana's project analyzes what it means to maintain Jewish identity in a secular world, and how families of faith can preserve and strengthen their religious foundations. This will be influenced both by her involvement in recruitment and development for the Millstone Scholars Program in small Jewish communities across America and by the creation of a prototype of a "Tikvah Guide to College" for three American universities. The presentation will discuss the Jewish experience in predominantly non-Jewish communities, for families and for college students, and will explore the types of communities that are friendly to Jewish religious and cultural strength.

Juliana Castillo

Spencer Glassman

HARVARD UNIVERSITY (2024)



SPENCER GLASSMAN hails from West Orange, New Jersey and is a rising junior at Harvard College studying history with a secondary in government. He is the Chairman of the John Adams Society, a columnist for The Crimson, and an active member of Hillel where he leads the regular trivia nights. Between freshman and sophomore year he went to Israel where he spent his first 4 months doing community service in Beer Sheva and Nahariya and the second 4 months at an internship in Tel Aviv.

WHY SHOULD JEWISH STUDENTS GET A CLASSICAL EDUCATION?

With a growing disenchantment within the West, the culture that has enriched countless lives has come under attack. From every direction, the value of reading the greatest works of literature and philosophy has never had so few defenders. Yet, these works are the antidote to the modern malaise. Man no longer knows who he is or what he is a part of. While this problem has spread to all Western Society, the Jewish community must reckon with it on their own terms. Any Jewish school which offers secular education – and all should – must be intentional about what it is teaching and not simply follow the trends of other communities. Since American society has lacked so much in genuine cultivation of its students through the humanities, so too have Jewish schools who simply try and have their students pass the New York Regents examination or develop ‘marketable skills’ to be able to apply to undergraduate vocational schooling in subjects like business or computer science. This problem must be tackled on two fronts: advocating for the importance of a classical education, and helping schools deliver that service to their students. Spencer has worked on both ends of this issue with Rabbi Mitch Rocklin, developing Tikvah’s humanities curriculum by writing teachers’ guides for Jonathan Swift, Alexander Dumas, John Locke, and Thomas Hobbes.

Spencer Glassman

Penina Spearman

YESHIVA UNIVERSITY (2023)



PENINA SPEARMAN, born and raised in Queens, New York, arrived at Yeshiva University and the Zahava and Moshael Straus Center for Torah and Western Thought in 2020 after spending a year studying in Israel at Michlelet Mevaseret Yerushalayim (MMY). At Stern College for Women, Penina is pursuing a degree in philosophy as a Jewish Foundation for Education of Women (JFEW) scholar. Penina has interned at the Kohelet Policy Forum and the Kings County Supreme Court. On campus, Penina sits on the American Enterprise Institute's YU Executive Council and is the Logistics Officer for the Alexander Hamilton Society (AHS) Yeshiva University chapter. She was also a campus fellow for The Organization for the Resolution of Agunot (ORA). Penina has participated in the Tikvah Overseas Student Institute and has been a TA for Tikvah Online Academy. She is a member of the Tikvah-Beren Collegiate Forum and its advisory board.

WHAT WE CAN LEARN FROM SACRED TIME, A NEW PUBLICATION BY RABBI MEIR SOLOVEICHIK

Rabbi Meir Soloveichik is an incredible intellectual with a unique partnership with Tikvah. From daily podcasts and essays to video courses, Rabbi Soloveichik produces a tremendous amount of intellectual work. Now in collaboration with Koren Publishers the video course "Sacred Time: The Jewish Holidays" is being transformed into a book for a greater audience. Penina's project is to help both with the editorial and research process for this book collaboration. She has been working with the team to make sure the text both fits the vision of Rabbi Soloveichik and Tikvah and is accessible to a broad audience. Penina has also been tasked to make sure the text is accurate and sources cited correctly, as well as to find the images to go along with the text. Penina will be giving a presentation about the content of the Sacred Time project and the way Rabbi Soloveichik sees how Jews experience time and the Jewish Holidays. Her deliverable will be the work she has done for the final product, the book itself.

Penina Spearman

Nina Saadat

UNIVERSITY OF MIAMI (2022)



NINA SAADAT is a recent graduate of the University of Miami, where she majored in psychology and minored in history, philosophy, and military science. She served as the Company Commander and First Sergeant of the University of Miami's Army ROTC program. After completing the Beren Summer Fellowship, she will be a Field Artillery Officer in the Maryland National Guard. Nina has studied and worked with the Tikvah Fund since the summer of 2017.

HOW IS AMERICAN HISTORY TAUGHT IN JEWISH DAY SCHOOLS?

Now more than ever, community members must pay attention to the academic content of Jewish day schools. Net enrollment has increased for the first time in nearly a decade and retention remains strong. Simultaneously, the debate concerning the meaning of America's history and its instruction in schools has reached a new peak of divisiveness. These dynamics present a unique challenge to Jewish day schools, which struggle to make time for dual curricula and have distinct approaches towards general education and American citizenship. Ultimately, what Jewish students learn about US history influences their participation in the American experiment.

As the Tikvah Fund expands its reach to more day school students, information on the state of their American history education is vital. Nina surveyed and conducted over a dozen in-depth interviews with Jewish day school educators to assess their US history content, instruction methods, and most significant challenges. Her deliverables will include a presentation and white paper summarizing the findings and suggesting measures for future research.

Nina Saadat

Samuel Marks
SWARTHMORE COLLEGE (2022)



Alexander Lucero
GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY (2024)



Jordan Paraboschi
CORNELL UNIVERSITY (2025)



SAMUEL MARKS recently graduated from Swarthmore College with a double major in Economics and History. At Swarthmore, he was co-president of Swarthmore's Conservative Society and co-president of Swarthmore Students for Israel. Samuel has written for The Daily Wire and Fretboard Journal Magazine and plays jazz guitar and banjo professionally in the Boston area. He founded an online musical instrument shop in high school, after studying musical instrument construction and restoration, and enjoys learning about and working on musical instruments in his free time. He is passionate about Jewish learning and American politics and hopes to pursue a career in public policy or academia.

ALEXANDER LUCERO is a Junior at George Washington University, where he studies economics and political science in the University Honors Program. Alex has interned for AIPAC's Policy and Government Affairs Department as a research assistant to the organization's national defense lobbyist. He is a member of the Sigma Chi Fraternity and the Phi Alpha Delta Pre-Law Fraternity. He also volunteers as treasurer of GW's Camp Kesem, which provides community and support to children through and beyond their parent's cancer. In his hometown of San Diego, California, Alex worked as a Hebrew school teacher throughout high school. He stays involved with his local DC Jewish community by tutoring Hebrew at a local synagogue. Alex hopes to attend Law School and practice as an Attorney. The Beren Summer Fellowship is Alex's first program through Tikvah, and he is excited to continue to enrich his Jewish education.

JORDAN PARABOSCHI is from Carmel, Indiana and will be a sophomore at Cornell University in the fall. At Cornell, Jordan is a managing editor of the Cornell International Affairs Review and a member of the Cornell Political Union. He participates in Jewish life through the Center for Jewish Living, MEOR and Kedma. Jordan is also an active member of Tikvah-Beren Collegiate Forum where he hopes to continue studying great texts in the Western and Jewish traditions.

DEVELOPING A NEW RESEARCH AND TEACHING AGENDA FOR JEWISH THOUGHT AND ECONOMICS

Confidence in our current political and economic order has been shaken by globalization, political instability, and rapid technological advancement, forcing us to return to the fundamental questions of economic values not raised by economists in traditional academia. Yet, Jewish voices have failed to appreciate the unique way in which our tradition answers these questions. Although the Rabbinic tradition has made a conscious effort to forgo a metaphysical philosophy in favor of concrete legal discussions, patterns of applied economic thought still exist within the Rabbinic legal framework.

We created four different lesson plans that each use Halakhic sources to explore the core questions underlying economics: these lesson plans include the topics of the competing values of work and leisure; definitions of ownership and liability in property law; the nature of arbitration and how the Jewish tradition approaches distributive justice. We hope the ideas presented in these lessons will spark the interest of investors, academics, and students and bring about an academic conference centered around these ideas.

Samuel Marks — Alexander Lucero — Jordan Paraboschi

Please help us find the next generation
of fellows by sharing nominations with us!
Write to arubenstein@tikvahfund.org.

If you want to learn more about what we do
with college students, visit our website at:
www.tikvahfund.org/college



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