

קרן תקווה  
TIKVAH

STRATEGIC OVERVIEW



**TIKVAH** קרן תקווה

**Strategic Overview 2025**

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SCAN ME

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## The Tikvah Mission

### Tikvah advances Jewish excellence and Western civilization through education & ideas.

Through its educational programs and institutions, Tikvah is shaping the rising generation of Jewish, Zionist, and American leaders. And through its media ventures, academic press, and wide array of conferences and events, Tikvah is advancing the most serious thinking about the great challenges facing the Jewish people.

The Tikvah model aims to form young Jews with moral confidence and civic courage, informed by the hard-won lessons of Jewish history and devoted to strengthening Jewish civilization in the many arenas of civic life.

Tikvah operates schools, intensive fellowships, summer institutes, and honors programs for students of all ages. We work closely with Jewish parents, educators, day schools, and colleges. We produce publications, podcasts, and online courses that bring Tikvah's ideas to the world. Through the Tikvah Society and our many membership programs and gatherings, we are building a community of engaged Jews and public-spirited Americans committed to our shared calling.



#### Our Founder, Zalman C. Bernstein

Zalman C. Bernstein z"l was a visionary businessman, entrepreneur, and philanthropist. In 1967, he founded Sanford C. Bernstein and Company, which grew into one of the most successful and respected investment companies in the world. As his passion for Judaism, Israel, and the Jewish people deepened, he immersed himself in Torah study, changed his name to Zalman Chaim Bernstein, and made his home in Israel. Always bold, always ideas-driven, always iconoclastic, Mr. Bernstein established Tikvah—and other important Jewish institutions—in the hope that by investing in great Jewish ideas and Jewish leaders, the heritage he cherished and the people he loved would be a light unto all nations.

## A Letter from Tikvah's Leadership

Dear Friends,

Since October 7th, the Jewish world has changed. Israelis bravely stand against ruthless terrorists who seek the annihilation of the Jewish state—and they do so with a spirit of resolve and courage reminiscent of the 1948 generation. American Jews are under moral—and even physical—assault, and we face it with a new appreciation for why Judaism matters and for the eternal ideals that define us.

Tikvah works with thousands of students and adults—from middle school and high school students to college students and young professionals, and from parents and grandparents to scholars and master teachers. In all that we do, Tikvah seeks to prepare the rising generation through education and ideas, fellowship and mentorship, and high-level learning and real-world experience. Abraham was called. Moses was called. Herzl was called. And we, too, are called.

In the face of these challenges, the Tikvah spirit is ever hopeful. Jewish civilization endures because committed Jews believe in the majestic importance of our history and heritage. Israel endures because brave Zionists believe in the heroic story of our people. The America-Israel alliance endures because of our shared values: freedom, faith, and family.

Yes, the Jews have many terrible enemies. But we also have many remarkable friends, who look to the "stock of Abraham" to help defend and renew Western civilization. Yes, the Jews remain a small people. And yet we find ourselves at the center of world events and on the fighting frontlines of Western civilization: this time with a Jewish army, air force, and national legacy of courage under fire. Yes, too many American Jews have drifted away from Jewish life. But the rising generation is—we hope—returning in strength. They hear the summons.

In this moment of Jewish consequence, we are grateful for the strength, support, and seriousness of the Tikvah community. Together, we are devoted to carrying the Jewish story forward—one student, one teacher, one seminar at a time.

We thank everyone who has joined us in our critical mission of advancing Jewish excellence through education and ideas, and we are honored to share with you here a portrait of our vision, our strategy, and the impact we have been able to achieve together.

Sincerely,



**Hon. Elliott Abrams**  
Chairman



**Eric Cohen**  
Chief Executive Officer

# Tikvah by the Numbers

**200+**

EPISODES OF THE FLAGSHIP  
TIKVAH PODCAST

**15,731**

JEWISH PARENTS  
FORUM EVENT  
ATTENDEES



Jewish Parents Forum

**35**

PARTICIPANTS ON  
THE 2024 PARENT-  
CHILD MISSION  
TO ISRAEL



**6,887**

UNIQUE DONORS  
WHO HAVE GIVEN TO  
TIKVAH IN THE LAST  
24 MONTHS



**64,000+**

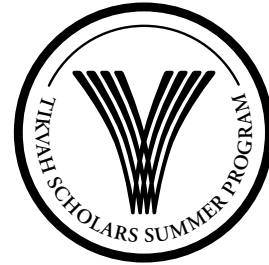
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**26**

DEGREE SEEKING  
STUDENTS IN OUR  
MA PROGRAM IN  
JEWISH CLASSICAL  
EDUCATION

**1,100+**

JEWISH DAY SCHOOL  
STUDENTS USING  
TIKVAH CURRICULA



**1,200+**

TIKVAH SCHOLARS  
SUMMER PROGRAM  
ALUMNI

**87**

PARTNER JEWISH  
DAY SCHOOLS  
IN 2024

**715**

TRUMAN SCHOLARS  
AND ALUMNI

**619**

MEMBERS OF THE  
TIKVAH SOCIETY



**179**

FACULTY IN  
THE 2023-2024  
ACADEMIC YEAR



**59,000+**

TIKVAH ONLINE UNIVERSITY  
ENROLLMENTS

**91,000+**

MOSAIC NEWSLETTER  
SUBSCRIBERS



**6,960**

STUDENT  
ENROLLMENTS IN  
TIKVAH ONLINE  
ACADEMY SINCE 2020



**980+**

ATTENDEES AT THE 2024  
JEWISH LEADERSHIP  
CONFERENCE

**\$17,000,000+**

PROJECTED FUNDRAISING REVENUE IN 2024

**100+**

JEWISH DAY SCHOOL  
EDUCATORS AT OUR  
LOBEL TEACHERS  
COLLOQUIA AT  
PRINCETON UNIVERSITY

# Tikvah Financials

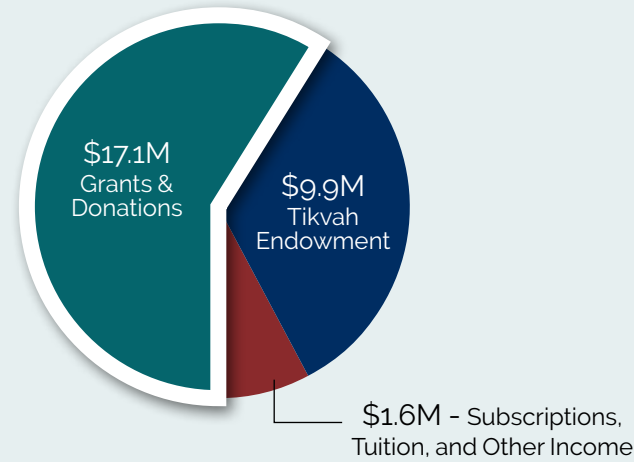
## Revenue

### Sources of Revenue

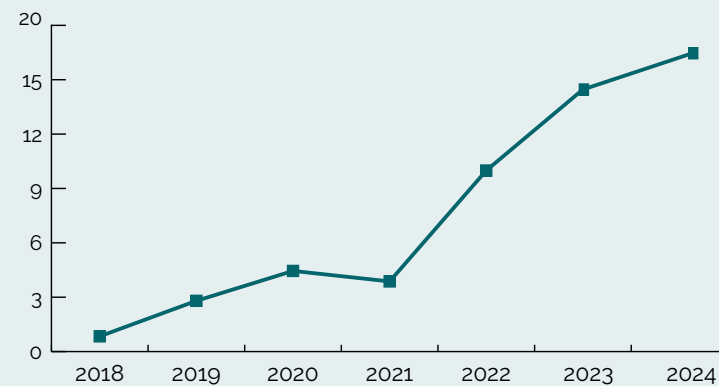
In Fiscal Year 2024, we are projecting over \$17,000,000 of donation revenue from more than 4,000 visionary partners, foundations, and philanthropists. Tikvah's programs are also supported by tuition and subscription revenues and by strategic allocations from the Tikvah Endowment Fund.



### 2024 Projected Revenue



### Annual Fundraising Income (in Millions)



### Growing Base of Support

Tikvah's ability to educate and cultivate Jewish excellence is made possible by the support of thousands of donors—at all levels—who share our mission of building the next generation of Jewish leaders. Over the last six years, Tikvah's annual fundraising revenue has increased from \$800K to over \$17M.

## Governance

The Tikvah Fund is a US-based 501(c)3 private operating foundation, and donations to Tikvah are tax-deductible to the full extent allowed by law. Tikvah's bylaws require a permanent Finance Committee, which, together with Tikvah's Board of Trustees, maintains the highest standards of nonprofit financial management and governance.

The Finance Committee oversees the critical areas of operating finances, internal controls and levels of authority, the annual budgeting process, Tikvah's investments and money management, and Tikvah's annual audit.

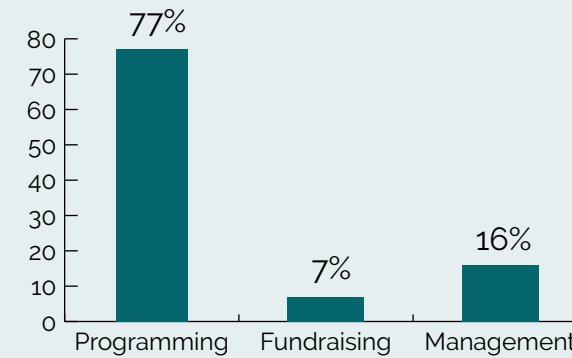
# Tikvah Financials

## Expenditures

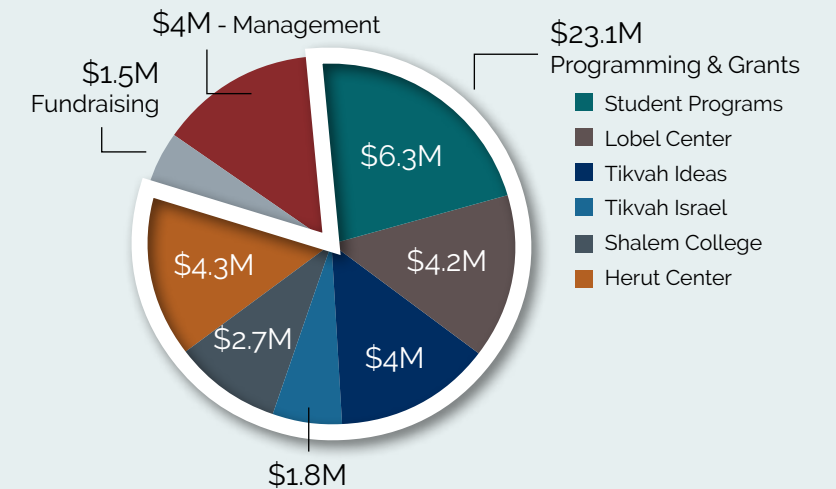
### Expenditures

Over 77% of our expenditures directly support the programs described in this Impact Report. In fiscal year 2024, we project our global expenditures to be \$28,600,000. These expenditures support teachers and students, invest in the next generation of Jewish and Israeli leadership, and cultivate vital ideas and conversations.

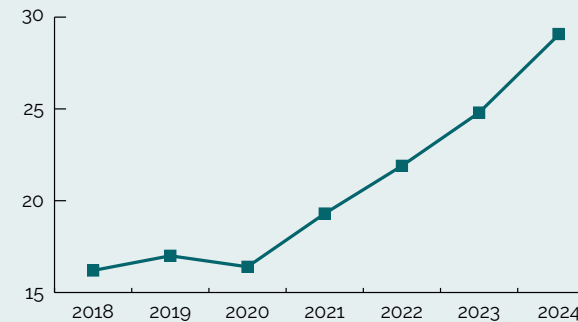
### Expenditures by Functional Area



### 2024 Projected Expenditures



### Annual Expenditures (in Millions)



### Growth of Impact Over Time

As Tikvah's scale has grown, so has our spending. In the past six years, our annual budget has increased by 76%—from \$16.2M in 2018 to \$28.6M today—and our student enrollment has increased more than 10-fold to over 2,000 students per year.

## Financial Integrity & Transparency

### GAAP-Compliant Accrual Basis Accounting

Tikvah's global financial reporting is GAAP compliant and is issued on a full accrual basis.

### Annual Audit

Tikvah engages in a comprehensive annual audit, which reviews financial integrity, legal compliance, internal controls, and financial and operational practices. Tikvah's most recent audit, conducted by Condon O'Meara LLP and KPMG—was issued with a "clean" unqualified opinion.

### Financial Transparency

Tikvah files an annual Form 990-PF with the Internal Revenue Service and a Form CHAR-500 with the New York State Charities Bureau, both of which are publicly available and are available upon request from our office.

Tikvah's commitment to financial transparency and integrity has been recognized by Candid/ GuideStar—the leading nonprofit that provides the most comprehensive data and insights about the social sector—with their "Gold Transparency 2024" accreditation.





# Middle and High School Programs

Tikvah's educational strategy is clear: Cultivate young Jews in the best of Jewish, Western, and American civilization. Invest in serious students from middle school to high school to college and beyond. Develop a new generation of Jewish leaders who believe in Jewish exceptionalism and who boldly commit to facing the greatest moral, political, and strategic challenges of the modern age. Success in this mission requires starting young.

**3,337**  
2023-2024  
Enrollments

**235**  
2023-2024  
Classes

**8**  
Programs

- 12 Millstone Scholars Program
- 14 Truman Scholars Program
- 16 Tikvah Online Academy
- 18 From Generation to Generation
- 20 Menachem Begin Scholars Program
- 22 Solomon Fellowship
- 24 Meet Our High School Fellows
- 26 Tikvah Scholars Summer Program

# Millstone Scholars Program

Inspiring young Jewish minds and Zionist spirits in cities across America



Irina Rakhlis, Executive Director, Millstone Scholars Program

The Millstone Scholars Program provides 7th and 8th graders—drawn from public and secular independent schools—the opportunity to study the foundational ideas, great leaders, and key texts of Jewish civilization. For most Millstone students, this new Tikvah program is the most significant Jewish learning experience in their lives.

This year, the Millstone Scholars Program plans to operate in 30+ locations. Our Millstone students come together in person every week for the entire academic year. They participate in seminar-style classes with fellow young Jews eager to rediscover their own Jewish history and heritage in an intellectually serious way. As they explore the Hebrew Bible and Jewish philosophy, the influence of Jewish ideas on American democracy, and the heroic story of modern Israel—a new Jewish identity is being born.



Millstone Scholars Graduation (NYC)



MILLSTONE SCHOLARS

### In 2025, Millstone locations include:

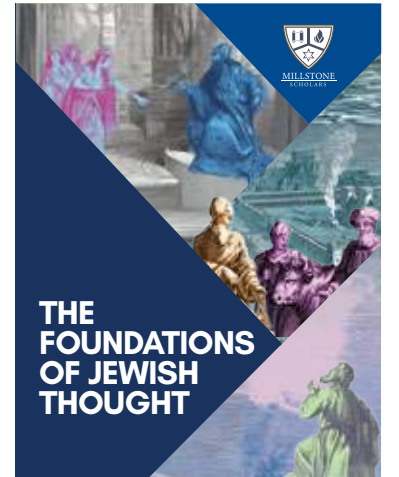
- |            |             |                 |
|------------|-------------|-----------------|
| Brooklyn   | Livingston  | Palo Alto       |
| Cleveland  | Los Angeles | Scottsdale      |
| Five Towns | Miami       | Tribeca         |
| Glen Rock  | Nashville   | Upper Manhattan |
| Greenwich  | Newton      | Vernon Hills    |

## A Unique Jewish & Zionist Curriculum

The Millstone Scholars program is built around three core trimesters of intense learning.

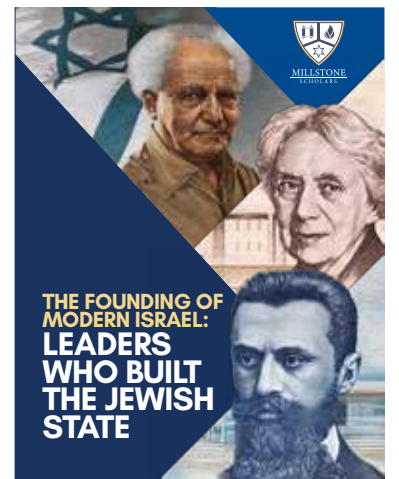
### Fall: The Foundations of Jewish Thought

In the first trimester, our students explore the foundational stories and ideas of the Jewish people—the faith and moral vision of Abraham, the founding of God's nation by Moses, the political leadership of David and Esther, the Jewish map of the human soul offered by thinkers like Rabbi Akiva and Maimonides. We say to B'nai Mitzvah: Here is the full tapestry of your Jewish story. Enter the narrative, debate with the greatest leaders of your rightful history, and claim it as your own.



### Winter: The Founding of Modern Israel—Leaders Who Built the Jewish State

In the second trimester, our students explore the remarkable story of modern Zionism. We discover how Jews preserved the longing for Zion throughout centuries of exile, and then study the heroic men and women who created the modern state of Israel: visionaries like Herzl and Rav Kook, statesmen like Jabotinsky and Ben-Gurion, moral leaders like Menachem Begin and Natan Sharansky. We also explore the defining moments—like the recovery of Jerusalem in the Six-Day War—that changed Jewish history forever.



### Spring: Land of Hope—The Jewish Meaning of America

Our third trimester is devoted to the Jewish experience in America. We explore how Hebraic ideas shaped the founding of our exceptional nation, and how Jews have been woven into the fabric of American democracy, from the colonial era to the modern age: from Jonas Phillips's bold defense of religious freedom to Emma Lazarus's poetry of American liberty, from the Zionist leadership of Justice Brandeis to the incredible victory of the Soviet Jewry movement. Our Millstone students emerge as proud champions of the American spirit.

## Meet Jennifer and David Millstone



The Millstone Scholars program is only possible because of the incredible vision, leadership, and generosity of the Millstone family. **Jennifer Millstone** is the President of Infinite Hospitality, a leading advocate for criminal justice reform, and Vice Chair of the 92nd Street Y. **David Millstone** is Co-Chief Executive Officer of Standard Industries and currently serves on the University Council at Yale, the Board of Advisors of the Harvard Law School Program on Corporate Governance, and the Board of Trustees of the Wildlife Conservation Society. Their vision: Give young Jews access to the great ideas of Jewish and Western civilization. Take young Jews seriously at the very age of their Bar and Bat Mitzvah. Set them on the path of lifelong engagement with the defining texts of Jewish life.

# Truman Scholars Program

A two-year Fellowship for outstanding 7th & 8th graders from 65+ Jewish day schools



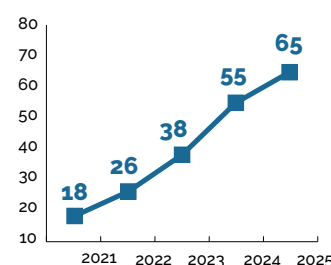
Truman Scholars Graduation (NYC)

The Truman Scholars Program provides the top 400+ middle-school students in Jewish day schools across North America a unique opportunity: to study the defining values of our two exceptional and covenantal nations—America and Israel.

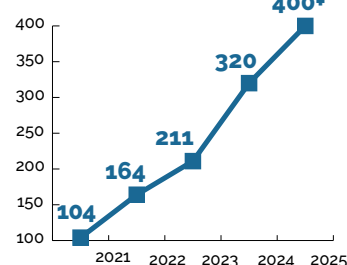
We launched Truman Scholars in 2021 with 18 partner schools. The program has already grown dramatically—to 65+ schools—because it serves a unique need. We know that many of the future leaders of American Jewry will come from our Jewish day schools. These devoted young Jews need a deep understanding of why Israel matters, why America matters, and why Jewish civilization matters. This is the spirit of Truman Scholars.



Partner Schools



Student Enrollment



Dr. Doran Katz, Truman Scholars Program Dean

## Inside the Truman Seminar Room

Our Truman Scholars learn together over 18 months in a core curriculum focused on America and Israel.



### 7th Grade: Jewish Leadership in America

In 7th grade, Truman Scholars explore how Jewish leaders like Jonas Phillips, Emma Lazarus, Justice Louis Brandeis, and Rabbi Herschel Schacter have left their mark on the American story. Through the careful reading of speeches, letters, and poems, they come to understand why America is a covenantal nation and a land of hope for the Jewish people.

### 8th Grade: The Spirit of Religious & Political Zionism

In 8th grade, Truman Scholars focus on the rebirth of Israel and the religious, cultural, and political leaders who shaped the modern Jewish state. They come to understand the political crisis that spurred the modern Zionist movement and the leaders—from Herzl to Ben Gurion to Natan Sharansky—who created modern Israel.



### Building A Community of Young Jewish Scholars

While our Truman Scholars come from across North America, we are focused on creating a community of young Jews ready to shoulder the responsibilities of Jewish citizenship. Throughout the year, we bring them together for special events, and every June we welcome our Truman Scholars and their families to Manhattan for a graduation ceremony.

## Why Truman Scholars Matters

Rabbi Daniel Alter, *Head of School* | THE MORIAH SCHOOL, ENGLEWOOD, NJ

“I have argued for years that the most underserved population in the Jewish day school world are our most gifted and motivated students. By investing in these students, the Truman program is working to create a cadre of young leaders who will significantly impact the Jewish people as a whole.”



Dr. Deborah Rapoport, *Head of School* | OHR CHADASH ACADEMY, BALTIMORE, MD

“The Truman Scholars program is a treasure that provides our students with the opportunity to go beyond the boundaries of the typical academic curriculum. Our students have absolutely loved the engaging discourse, depth of analysis, historical insights, and lessons on leadership.”

# Tikvah Online Academy

Online seminars for 6th to 12th graders interested in Jewish, Western, and American civilization



Tikvah Online Academy offers a year-round menu of high-level seminars—taught by gifted teachers, in discussion-based classes, live on Zoom—for curious middle and high school students. Our mission: to bring the intellectual spirit of Tikvah to young people everywhere.

Jewish parents are concerned about the education of their children. Tikvah Online Academy is creating a vibrant community of ideas that connects eager students across the globe. We give young Jews the chance to study (i) Jewish thought and philosophy, (ii) Zionism and modern Israel, (iii) the foundations of American democracy, and (iv) the great books of Western Civilization. Our approach: Everything that matters in human life also matters to the Jewish people.



Since 2020, Tikvah Online Academy has had:

<b>474</b> Classes	<b>61%</b> Students Taking More Than 1 Class	<b>6,960</b> Enrollments
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## Recent Classes at Tikvah Online Academy



The Future of the American University



An Introduction to Russian Literature



The Sabbath in Jewish Thought and Literature



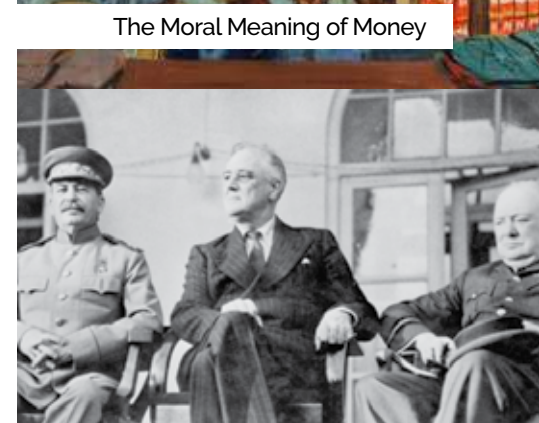
The Moral Meaning of Money



The Bold & Courageous: Women in Tanakh



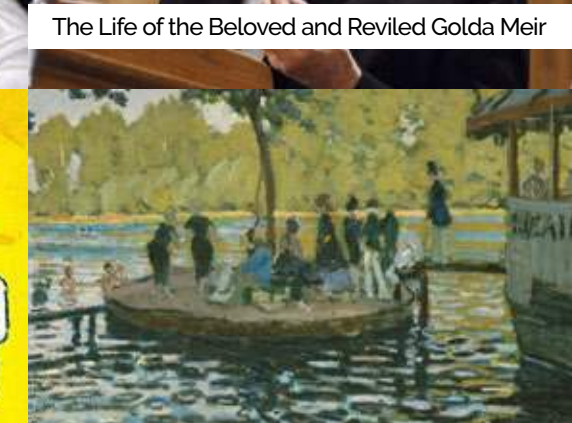
The Life of the Beloved and Reviled Golda Meir



American Statesmanship: The Cold War



The Wonders of Greek Mythology



The Human Quest for Meaning



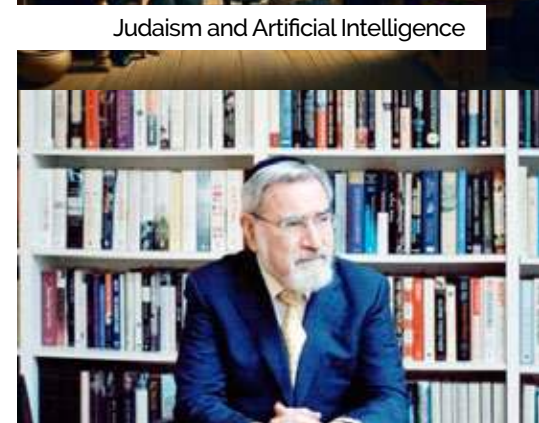
Judaism and Artificial Intelligence



Plato and the Talmud



George Orwell's Animal Farm



Rabbi Sacks: The Persistence of Faith



What Defines the American Spirit?



The First American: Benjamin Franklin


# From Generation to Generation

Parent-child seminars on the weekly Torah portion, inspired by Rabbi Lord Jonathan Sacks



In partnership with The Rabbi Sacks Legacy, Tikvah invites parents (and grandparents) to learn with their middle-school-aged children, delving into the major themes, central figures, and enduring questions of Jewish thought, as taught through the weekly parsha.

These 10-week courses are facilitated by expert scholars who guide participants through seminal essays within Rabbi Sacks's *Covenant & Conversation* series. Sessions include an introductory lesson by the scholar, time for parent-child discussions, and group conversations that foster deep engagement with the weekly parsha.



2024 Academic Year

<b>428</b> Enrollments	<b>214</b> Parent-Child Learning Pairs
<b>20</b> Total # of Sections	<b>5</b> Faculty Members

## Covenant and Conversation

*A weekly journey through the Five Books of Moses.*



### Sefer Bereishit/Genesis

From Creation to the failed civilizations of the Flood and Tower of Babel, from the Patriarchs and Matriarchs to the Twelve Tribes, the beginnings of the Jewish Story are explored through Rabbi Sacks's teachings, including our foundational concepts of covenant, peoplehood, and the formation of a nation—both a nation that dwells alone and a nation that is the source of blessing to the entire world.



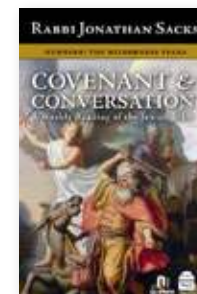
### Sefer Shemot/Exodus

Freedom from slavery leads to an even higher form of freedom: the positive freedom that comes from leading a life under the yoke of the Law, through a life of Torah. And at the conclusion of the book, the construction of the Tabernacle brings direction and holiness to a desert nation charged with being a sanctified congregation and a kingdom of priests.



### Sefer Vayikra/Leviticus

What does a life of holiness actually look like? According to Leviticus, relationships, business, dress, dietary codes, and personal conduct all come under the mandate to be a Holy People. In Judaism, Rabbi Sacks reminds us, holiness is not just for a specific caste of people in a particular location like a synagogue or study hall. Instead, all of life is ennobled and consecrated by the Torah's many mandates.



### Sefer Bamidbar/Numbers

Wilderness wanderings can be difficult for a people just coming into their own. Stumbling and falling is a common feature of the life of a leader—and young nation. But Rabbi Sacks insists that the greatest of leaders—while not infallible themselves—find ways to elevate circumstances and decisions, giving us all a way forward.



### Sefer Devarim/Deuteronomy

When the greatest of our people's leaders offers his last will and testament, we ought to pay attention. Rabbi Sacks unpacks the forms of public life, government, and authority embedded in the Torah's final book with an eye towards our modern political structures and what is both durable and for our own age.

# Menachem Begin Scholars Program

Building the intellectual and moral foundations in Western and Jewish Thought



Rabbi Hershel Lutch, Tikvah CFO/COO

The Menachem Begin Scholars Program is a highly selective fellowship for 9th and 10th grade students from across North America. Fellows convene in year-long seminars to study the foundational texts of Jewish and Western Civilization and to probe the meaning of modern Zionism and American democracy. Ninth-grade students explore Greek philosophy and tragedy, as well as seminal texts of the Hebrew Bible. Tenth-grade students study the intellectual, moral, civic, and religious debates at the heart of modern Israel and the United States.

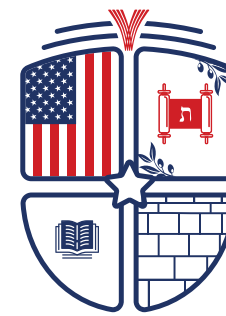
Each summer, the two-year program begins with an in-person retreat at Princeton University. Starting in the fall and spring, Begin Scholars meet for seminar discussion, and occasional debates, and special events. In the winter, Begin Scholars come together for the annual National Student Leadership Conference, where they get the chance to learn with world-class scholars and their fellows from across the country.



2024-2025 Academic Year

<b>167</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>20</b>
Scholars	Schools Represented	Faculty Members

## National Student Leadership Conferences



Every year, we bring together our top high school students in Washington, D.C., New York, and Florida for multi-day conferences focused on advancing our Jewish, Zionist, and American ideals. In addition to high-level sessions with leading thinkers and policymakers, our delegates build ties across the Tikvah generations—from middle school to high school to college and beyond.

## The Tikvah Generation



# Solomon Fellowship

Our 80 Solomon Fellows look to Tikvah as their foundation for Jewish leadership and ideas



Rabbi Mark Gottlieb, Chief Education Officer

A transformative learning and mentorship opportunity designed for driven 11th and 12th grade students preparing for college, gap year, and beyond. Solomon Fellows study great essays and great leaders in seminar-style classes, receive Israel and college guidance from Tikvah staff and alumni, attend retreats where they study with top college professors, and are given the opportunity to cultivate their leadership skills and showcase their writing in the *Solomon Journal*.

Following their orientation in New York, Solomon Fellows engage in monthly Great Ideas Seminars, exploring landmark essays from publications like *Mosaic* and *Commentary* under the guidance of master instructors. Fellows participate in retreats at the University of Florida featuring leading faculty, each framed by themes relating to Jewish philosophy, American-Jewish history, and the modern State of Israel.



Academic Year 2024-2025

<b>80</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>24</b>
Students	Writers & Contributors	"Great Ideas" Seminars

## The Solomon Journal

A national student magazine focused on Jewish life, culture, politics, and ideas.



### Dance in the Jewish Tradition: From the Torah to the Twenty-First Century

by Gabriella Friedman | *Salanter Akiba Riverdale Academy*  
What might we learn from dance traditions in Jewish history? How might Jewish values guide us in engaging with the world of dance today?

### Jewish Resilience in Times of Persecution and Prosperity From Our Forefathers to the Present

by Judah Marcus | *Rae Kushner Yeshiva High School*  
Resilience has been associated with Judaism from time immemorial. The study of Jewish resilience—from Tanakh through today—can help strengthen and deepen our national character.

### The Purpose Embedded in Every Nation

by Lir Yissar | *Bnei Akiva Schools of Toronto*  
Tevye of "Fiddler on the Roof" famously asks God if, on occasion, He could choose someone else—prompting age-old questions of chosenness and national purpose.

## Parent-Child Mission to Israel

In June, Tikvah hosted an inspiring 5-day mission for high school students to bear moral witness to the October 7th attacks and the heroic Israeli response. The program provided in-depth learning about Israel's political and military history. Participants met with high-profile officials, army officers, and analysts; and they received briefings on the current challenges facing the Jewish state.



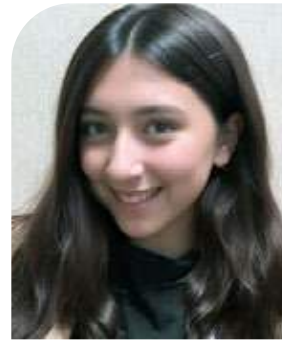
## Meet Our Begin Scholars

Our 160 Begin Scholars look to Tikvah as their home for Jewish and Zionist ideas.



**Alexander Isaac**  
9th Grade  
KITSILANO SCHOOL  
VANCOUVER

Alexander is in the French immersion program at the Kitsilano Secondary School in Vancouver, Canada. He serves as the treasurer of the British Columbia BBYO board, is president of the debate club, and is actively involved in Model UN and the school's theatre program. He plays the clarinet and has participated in extracurricular programs for advanced math, visual art, Hebrew, Mandarin, ornithology, architecture, and STEM topics.



**Claire Ambinder Kanner**  
10th Grade  
LYCÉE FRANÇAIS  
NEW YORK

Claire Ambinder Kanner, a 10th grader at the Lycée Français de New York, is passionate about travelling, storytelling, languages, singing, dancing, fencing, and theater. Claire treasures being part of the Tikvah community. In her Tikvah classes, she has discovered lifelong friends, teachers, and knowledge that has inspired her to serve the Jewish people.

## Meet Our Solomon Fellows

Our 80 Solomon Fellows look to Tikvah as their foundation for Jewish leadership and ideas.



**Akivah Levine**  
11th Grade  
MARGOLIN HEBREW  
ACADEMY, MEMPHIS

A Boston native, Akiva Levine now lives in Memphis and attends Margolin Hebrew Academy, where he edits the school paper and participates in Mock Trial, Student Council, and Model U.N. A longtime Tikvah student, Akiva was a Truman scholar in 7th grade and a Begin Scholar this past year; he also joined a Tikvah summer mission trip to Israel. He is passionate about Zionism and dedicated to understanding the Jewish homeland's past and present.



**Esther Luvishis**  
12th Grade  
MARIA CARRILLO HIGH  
SCHOOL, SANTA ROSA, CA

Esther Luvishis hails from Santa Rosa, CA, where she is a senior at Maria Carrillo High School. She has participated in a range of Tikvah programs including the Solomon Fellowship. The founder and president of her school's Jewish Alliance Club, a leader in NCSY, and a member of Club Z, Esther also volunteers in a kitchen that provides healthy food for terminally ill people, and coaches children in piano. She enjoys philosophy and Audrey Hepburn movies.



# Tikvah Scholars Summer Program

Our flagship institute for 11th and 12th graders—Two weeks immersed in Jewish, Zionist, and Western civilization



The Tikvah Scholars Summer Program brings together 11th and 12th graders with the intellectual drive, moral seriousness, and civic spirit to become Jewish leaders. For two intensive weeks, they focus on the great human questions and form enduring friendships rooted in shared Jewish purposes and values.

Launched in 2010, the Tikvah Scholars Summer Program has become a true institution in the world of Jewish education. We have educated over 1,000 students from diverse Jewish backgrounds. Our unique curriculum combines classical learning in Jewish, Zionist, and Western thought with strategic thinking about the great political and cultural issues of the modern age. We are creating a network of emerging Jewish and Zionist leaders, connected to one another and ready for the challenges of college and beyond.



**1,200+**  
Alumni

**30+**  
Classes  
Each Summer

**5:1**  
Student-  
to-Faculty  
Ratio

## Inside the Seminar Room

The Tikvah Scholars Summer Program offers 30+ seminars every year. Here are just a few:



**War and Peace in Judaism**  
Rabbi Dr. Itamar Rosensweig  
Yeshiva University

What conditions justify waging war? What are the distinctions between various types of war in Judaism? In this seminar, we explore the moral aims that govern military conduct—whether armies are bound by requirements of proportionality in assessing strategic targets and who bears the responsibility for protecting civilians in wartime. We consider the significance of Jewish power in preserving Jewish sovereignty and protecting Jewish life.



**American Jews and the Religious Liberty Project**  
Dr. Michael (Avi) Helfand  
Pepperdine University

Religious freedom is central to the American experiment. How can we strengthen religious freedom in a secular age? How much religious-liberty protection is due individuals and institutions? These questions, which are vital to all faith communities, have long been particularly important for American Jews. In this course, we explore how First Amendment principles govern the relationship between synagogue and state and how the Jewish community should continue to engage in the religious-liberty debates of our age.



**Modern Ideology in the Arab World**  
Hussein Aboubakr  
Noted Scholar and Author

This seminar examines the most consequential political, intellectual, and social ideologies in the modern Arab world. This includes the evolution of, and competition between, Arab nationalism, Islamism, and Arab socialism. Through tracing the connections between these ideas and the rise of regional radicalism, Jihadism, and what came to be known as the Palestinian cause, students will be equipped with both the historical background and the current state of ideology and radicalism in the Middle East.



**The American Religious Imagination: Marilynne Robinson's Gilead**  
Dr. Tamara Tweel  
Teagle Foundation

*Gilead*, by novelist and theologian Marilynne Robinson, is a story of faith and moral reckoning. At its center is a quiet appreciation for the majesty of existence. In this class, students will think seriously about faith in America; how language shapes the world; and what happens when language becomes a tool of tyranny. Drawing upon literary masterworks and historical case studies, we'll examine how words and ideas shape the moral imagination and can elevate or destroy human freedom.





# University and Young Professional Programs

Tikvah works closely with Jewish college students across North America—building campus chapters, convening high-level conferences, offering intensive summer programs. Our aim is to provide the kind of serious education in Jewish ideas, Western civilization, and Zionist history that too many colleges ignore and to create a courageous band of Jewish leaders ready to fight back against the pernicious tide of campus anti-Semitism. Our programs with young professionals carry this mission forward: helping prepare our best students for lives and careers of Jewish purpose and American renewal.

**3,000+**  
Alumni

**68**  
Campuses  
Represented

**500+**  
College  
Students

30 Tikvah Israel Fellowship

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32 Beren Collegiate Forum

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34 Beren Summer Fellowship

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36 Krauthammer Fellowship

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38 Tikvah Legal Fellowship

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40 In Focus: Tikvah Alumni

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# Tikvah Israel Fellowship

A gap-year program focused on the meaning of Zionism, the Israeli future, and the responsibilities of American Jews



The Tikvah Israel Fellowship offers highly motivated gap-year students in Israel something unique: a chance to think about the modern Jewish condition—politically, culturally, and strategically—with exceptional peers from a variety of yeshivas and seminaries.

Our program combines five key elements: (i) studying Jewish texts in conversation with the great ideas of the Western tradition, (ii) understanding the political history of Zionism in conversation with the great ideas of the Western tradition, (iii) learning from the great leaders of modern Israel—political, cultural, and religious, (iv) debating the major questions facing Israeli society today, and (v) preparing students for the cultural and political challenges of college. Armed with moral confidence and intellectual courage, our alumni have emerged as campus leaders at America's leading universities.



**קרן תקווה**  
**TIKVAH**  
OVERSEAS INSTITUTE

In the 2023-2024 school year,  
Tikvah Overseas Institute had:

<b>53</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>13</b>
Gap-Year Students	Programs & Events	Faculty Members

## A Unique Gap-Year Program in Israel

*A mix of intense seminars, a high-level speaker series, and leadership retreats.*

### Our Core Seminars: Cultural and Political Zionism

The Tikvah Israel Fellowship offers young men and women the opportunity to study the great texts and dramatic events that forged the modern history of Zionism. Our seminar on political Zionism offers an in-depth look at Israel's military and political history. Our seminar on cultural Zionism examines the rebirth of Jewish sovereignty in the land of Israel through its poetry and literature. Students are eligible to obtain three college credits from these seminars.



### Speaker Series: Debating Great Questions of Jewish National Life

In our four-part speaker series, which is open to all students spending a gap year in Israel, we feature leading experts in Israeli public life, including several political leaders, journalists, and cultural and religious figures. Throughout the duration of their year-long fellowship, students enjoy engaging with these speakers in private meetings before the main events take place.

### Leadership Retreats

Twice a year, fellows spend Shabbat with Tikvah. Alongside meals and prayer, each Shabbaton is made up of two full-day educational sessions, with lectures and special seminars on how to learn in college, the educational vision of the West, the destiny of American Jewry, and current events in Israel. Our retreats are opportunities to deepen burgeoning friendships among Tikvah students as they prepare for the next phase of their lives, forging a Tikvah community of shared principles and purposes.



“ The Tikvah program has been instrumental in providing our students with an enriching educational environment that greatly enhances their gap year experience. Tikvah challenges our best students to consider the toughest issues facing the Jewish people.

Through Tikvah, our students have sharpened their Jewish sense of purpose, participated in many great debates, and developed a deeper understanding of the West and the world.

Rabbi Yehuda Seif, Rosh Yeshiva of Midreshet and Yeshivat Torah V'Avodah

# Beren Collegiate Forum

A network of student leaders at 65+ colleges—all committed to advancing Jewish and American ideals



Tikvah's Beren Collegiate Forum connects hundreds of exceptional undergraduates around the country, creating a rising Tikvah generation of committed Jews who aspire to positions of intellectual, political, and religious leadership.

Campus by campus, we identify students with intellectual curiosity, entrepreneurial drive, professional ambition, and a deep belief in Tikvah's core values.

We regularly convene Forum members for in-depth seminars and conversations, both in student-organized campus chapters and in digital classrooms. We connect them with thought leaders in journalism, politics, business, and education. We invest in student-led programs, publications, and reading groups on campus. Tikvah's aim is to create a national community of public-spirited Jewish college students, armed with ideas as they stand up for Jewish, Zionist, and American values.



Academic Year 2023-2024

**437** Student Participants    **65+** Campuses Represented    **34** Chapter Presidents

## Great Essays & Debates

Our seminars examine works of philosophy, literature, and history that define Jewish civilization.

### Jewish Courage and the Zionist Spirit

A semester-long seminar following the outbreak of the October 7th war. We convened high-level discussion groups on campus examining the State of Israel not merely as a physical safe haven for Jews, but as a heroic return to Jewish self-reliance. We explored Tikvah's library of guided readers, books, films, and podcasts covering historical and contemporary thinkers from Herzl and Jabotinsky, to Ruth Wisse and Dara Horn, to Douglas Murray and Einat Wilf.

### Jews and the American Presidency

A three-part series probing two centuries of Jewish involvement in the White House. We explored the consequential relationships between Jews and various Democratic and Republican administrations that emerged following Israel's independence. And we discussed the evolution of Jewish politics in America—left, right and center.

### The Haggada: A Political Classic

A three-part series examining essays from *The Jonathan Sacks Haggada*. Focusing on social, civic, and political teachings relevant to Jews across generations, we discussed the Haggada's messages about liberty, national identity, and responses to anti-Semitism.



Robert Beren z"l

A great leader, benefactor, visionary, and friend, Mr. Robert M. Beren left his mark on Jewish history. May his memory—and his legacy—be a blessing for generations to come.

## Meet Our Campus Presidents

Tikvah student leaders are shaping campus discourse about Judaism and Israel at universities across the country.



Elaine Abrams  
Emory University

Natalie Arbatman  
George Washington University

Isabella Brannon  
UCLA

Juliana Castillo  
Columbia University

Ilan Eisenberg  
Yale University

Benjamin Frogel  
College of William and Mary

Darius Gross  
Princeton University



Brandon Leach  
American University

Tzivia Lutch  
Touro University

Isaac Nadaner  
University of Chicago

Zoe Robbins Rutkovsky  
Cornell University

Ariella Scheer  
Williams College

Joshua Shapiro  
Yeshiva University

Rivka Werner  
York University

# Beren Summer Fellowship

Tikvah's flagship program for college students. Eight weeks in the arena of Jewish ideas and public policy



The Beren Summer Fellowship brings together our most committed college leaders for a full summer in NYC, combining a Tikvah masterclass on the strategic challenges facing the Jewish people with independent research projects, tutorials, and internships at leading policy organizations.

The Beren Summer Fellows combine serious Jewish learning from teachers such as Ruth Wisse, Yuval Levin, and Leora Batnitzky with high-level practical experiences. Recent projects include working on U.S.-Israel relations with Senator Tom Cotton's office, working with the Becket Fund to advance American religious liberty, developing a new and innovative film series on Zionism for American college students, and working directly with the Abraham Accords Peace Institute to advance peace in the Middle East.



**Beren Fellows have interned at the following leading institutions:**

- Philos Project
- Vandenberg Coalition
- Hudson Institute
- Manhattan Institute
- Yorktown Institute
- Becket Fund
- Abraham Accords Peace Institute
- Foundation for Defense of Democracies
- Office of U.S. Senator Tom Cotton

## Meet Our Summer Fellows

Every summer, we select 15-18 Beren Fellows dedicated to advancing the ideals and interests of the Jewish people, the State of Israel, and the United States. Meet a few recent alumni:



**Class of 2024**  
Shabbos Kestenbaum

Shabbos Kestenbaum is a recent graduate of Harvard University and the lead plaintiff in a suit against the school alleging severe and pervasive anti-Semitism on campus. He is a regular contributor in international media outlets, including Fox, CNN, and the BBC, and recently addressed the 2024 Republican National Convention. He has testified before Congress and speaks internationally about campus anti-Semitism, higher education reform, and the bipartisan U.S.-Israel relationship. Shabbos has been involved with Tikvah since high school and is an alumnus of numerous Tikvah programs and fellowships.



**Class of 2023**  
Isabella Brannon

Isabella Brannon is a senior at UCLA pursuing a major in Public Affairs and minors in Religion and Digital Humanities. Outside of her studies, Bella is the President of Hillel, Editor-in-Chief of *Ha'Am*, a bass player in the Klezmer Ensemble, and a researcher into bias in artificial intelligence with the School of Technology, Law, and Policy. Bella became involved with Tikvah in high school through the Tikvah Scholars Summer Program and Tikvah Online Academy. She is now a member of the Tikvah College Forum, and she co-led UCLA's Tikvah reading group on Chaim Saiman's book *Halakhah: The Rabbinic Idea of Law*.



**Class of 2022**  
Juliana Castillo

Juliana Castillo is an undergraduate at Columbia University who spent a fellowship year working at Tikvah. She was the assistant director of the Tikvah Scholars Summer Program and the Solomon Fellowship. In 2022, she researched the post-COVID landscape of Jewish education as a Beren Summer Fellow. Juliana is also a violist and has trained at the Perlman Music Program and Juilliard School. This year, she is the associate principal of the Columbia University Orchestra and a Dolan Prize recipient. Juliana is broadly interested in philosophy, education (both theory and pedagogy), and the intersection of the artistic and the intellectual.



**Class of 2021**  
Jacob Viviano

Jacob works in external affairs for the Republican Party of Florida, coordinating strategy with stakeholders and communities. He graduated from the University of Michigan with a degree in public policy. For his Beren Fellowship project, Jacob worked on the foreign policy team for U.S. Senator Tom Cotton, where he produced high-level research on Iranian politics and nuclear proliferation. Following his Beren Fellowship, Jacob worked as a Hertog Research Fellow and special assistant to Ambassador Ron Dermer.

# Krauthammer Fellowship

Launching the next generation of thoughtful and influential Jewish intellectuals



The Krauthammer Fellowship helps advance the careers of outstanding young writers and intellectuals by bringing their ideas to the public square. The program is named in honor of the legendary columnist Charles Krauthammer.

Our fellows come from think tanks, graduate schools, magazines, and other civic institutions, bringing a wide range of expertise as well as a shared commitment to American ideals and the security and flourishing of the Jewish state. Our team works closely with each Krauthammer Fellow in crafting a major long-form essay or series of shorter articles for publication in premier outlets. Fellows also participate in online educational programming and in-person conferences, during which they address serious challenges in politics, culture, and Jewish life.



## Essays Shaping the Conversation

Our Krauthammer Fellows have published important essays in the world's leading magazines, journals, and newspapers. Here are a few recent examples:



### The Campus War on Israel

*National Review* | Zach Kessel

How did Hamas terrorism become a social justice cause in a matter of hours? The answer lies with the unique intellectual and social environment of the American college campus. From student and faculty denunciations of Israel on October 8th to virulent anti-Semitism at campus encampments in the spring of 2024, Zach Kessel is among the first writers to accurately and meticulously report the rise in progressive support for Hamas.

### Arsenal of Autocracy

*Washington Examiner* | Michael Lucchese

Since October 7th, Iran and Russia's growing partnership has served to undermine both American and Israeli interests. Michael Lucchese turns to statesman and philosopher Edmund Burke for guidance. "It is with an armed doctrine that we are at war." Iran's support of Hamas is an attempt to arm the doctrine of anti-Americanism.



### Ghetto Inflation

*Tablet* | Joshua Blustein

In the Lodz ghetto, how did Jewish families manage to procure ritual items required to celebrate Shabbat and Passover? How did they survive? To mark the 80th anniversary of the ghetto's liquidation, Joshua Blustein's online exhibit combined detailed economic analysis with firsthand diary entries, photos, and letters to tell stories of proud Jewish lives within ghetto walls.

### Anti-Semitism Helped Make Me A Jew

*Commentary* | Kassy Akiva

Modern anti-Semites disparage the long-held American friendship with the Jewish people. Kassy Akiva's reflection on her conversion to Judaism recounts the vitriolic anti-Semitism that she both witnessed and endured. Nonetheless, rather than be deterred by security threats resulting from her support of Israel and eventual conversion, Kassy was moved by the strength and devotion of the Jewish people in community and ritual worship.



### The Five Crises of the French Republic

*American Affairs* | Mathis Bitton

France faces mass protests, cultural clashes between its citizenry, and economic crisis. "The path to redemption remains tortuous," Mathis Bitton writes. Charles de Gaulle's model for modern France, built around a strong executive, judicial restraint, industrial policy, and republican citizenship has survived in France as a set of abandoned ideals.

# Tikvah Legal Fellowship

A summer program for law students interested in advancing Jewish values in the American public square

The Tikvah Legal Fellowship provides first-and second-year law students a unique summer experience—including high-level seminars with leading figures in the legal profession; internships at prestigious law firms and clerkships with federal judges; and mentoring as they look ahead to their careers.

For many Jewish students, law school is a crucial gateway to effective advocacy for great causes—such as the defense of religious liberty, a strong alliance between the U.S. and Israel, the promotion of school choice, and the restoration of equality under law. The Tikvah Legal Fellowship challenges top law students across the country to approach their careers as Jewish leaders in the civic arena. We connect them to fellow Jews and Christians across the country who share these ideals.



**Our fellows attend law school at:**

Cardozo	Georgetown	Penn
Chicago	Harvard	Stanford
Columbia	NYU	UVA
Fordham	Northwestern	Yale



Our fellows have worked for some of these leading institutions in U.S. law.

## Meet Our Legal Fellows

Our Tikvah Legal Fellows are exceptional attorneys-in-training interested in public affairs.



**Class of 2024**  
Isabel Wolfson

Isabel Wolfson is a second-year student at Harvard Law School. Before law school, she graduated from the University of Chicago with a degree in Public Policy and Sociology and minors in History and Jewish Studies. Isabel worked at the U.S. Attorney's Office of the Southern District of New York in the Securities and Commodities Fraud Task Force as a paralegal. She interned for Judge John Cronan and for Osen LLC, a plaintiff's firm representing family members of victims of terrorist attacks against financial institutions.



**Class of 2023**  
Dore Feith

Dore Feith is a third-year student at Columbia Law School, where he is an editor on the *Columbia Business Law Review* and a Federalist Society board member. Last summer, Dore interned at the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Southern District of New York. Before law school, he served as a special assistant to the Deputy Administrator of the U.S. Agency for International Development. Dore graduated *magna cum laude* from Columbia University with a B.A. in History. He speaks Hebrew and Arabic. After graduation, Dore will clerk for Judge Steven Menashi on the Second Circuit.



**Class of 2022**  
Elisheva Marcus

Elisheva Marcus was valedictorian of Touro University's Lander College for Women, where she earned a degree in history and political science. She graduated NYU School of Law where she was editor-in-chief of the *Journal of Law and Liberty* and vice president of Law Students Against anti-Semitism. She has worked at the U.S. Bankruptcy Court in the Eastern District of New York, is currently an associate with Jones Day in New York City, and will clerk for Judge Matthew Solomson on the U.S. Court of Federal Claims in Washington, DC, next year.

## Meet Our Speakers

Tikvah Legal Fellows learn from leading judges, law professors, and attorneys. Recent speakers include:



Judge Alice M. Batchelder    Josh Blackman    Robert P. George    Judge Robert Luck    Michael McConnell    Judge Neomi Rao



Judge David Stras    Ilya Shapiro    Judge Matthew H. Solomson    Justice Clarence Thomas    Edward Whelan    Adam White

## Tikvah Students and Alumni in Focus

## Zach Kessel

Interested in international relations and journalism, Zach was introduced to Tikvah as the president of one of Northwestern's student-run foreign policy clubs. When he applied to the Beren Summer Fellowship, Zach hoped to buttress his credentials as a serious writer and analyst of public policy.

At Northwestern, Zach was a prominent opinion columnist singled out by his student editors for his reporting about campus free-speech issues and Israel. Zach penned his first major piece in the *Washington Post* as a college sophomore, criticizing his campus newspaper's acquiescence to the far-left mob on journalistic standards.

Zach was eager to meet the right mentors at Tikvah to help focus his career. He was placed in a carefully selected internship with the Vandenberg Coalition, chaired by Tikvah's chairman, Elliott Abrams, and directed by Tikvah alumna, Carrie Filipetti. There, Zach pioneered a new media fellowship program to educate American journalists about foreign affairs. Zach was also challenged to explore the tensions between Judaism and modernity through the Beren Fellowship's seminars.

In his own telling, he learned more through Tikvah in one summer than in his entire four-year college career. One of the Beren Fellowship's seminar leaders, Dr. Yuval Levin, introduced him to the editors at *National Review*, where he would later land a prestigious William F. Buckley Jr. Fellowship. Zach's writing talents also landed him a spot in Tikvah's Krauthammer Fellowship.

October 7th occurred just months into the start of Zach's Krauthammer Fellowship and his role at *National Review*. He quickly specialized to focus his reporting on anti-Israel activity across elite American college campuses and became an indispensable resource for information as events escalated rapidly into virulent anti-Semitism. He also wrote long-form pieces about the historical development of anti-Semitism in the West.

Today Zach works as a speechwriter for a U.S. senator, where making effective arguments about pro-America and pro-Israel policy is significant part of his role. Tikvah remains central both to Zach's career and intellectual development. Zach explains: "One of the best parts of Tikvah is access to the network in the fields of law, politics, policy, and academia. It's an endless wealth of resources." He also credits Tikvah for his "depth of knowledge on Jewish affairs" which proved essential to his writing about anti-Semitism and pro-Hamas activity on college campuses and across America.



## Tikvah Students and Alumni in Focus

## Sabrina Soffer

Sabrina, born to parents with roots in Dagestan and Egypt, always had a strong sense of Jewish pride and a zest for writing. Her interests in modern Jewish thought and history deepened when she first became acquainted with Tikvah as a student member of George Washington University's Tikvah Beren Collegiate Forum campus chapter.

After October 7th, Sabrina became engulfed in numerous anti-Semitic campus controversies. "Glory to the martyrs," a reference to Hamas, was projected on the walls of the library at George Washington University. Sabrina's daily life was upended as she took on leadership roles both locally as a student in Washington, D.C., and nationally as a representative of American Jewry in Congress, on television, and at public rallies.

Sabrina's Tikvah college chapter studied Ruth Wisse's "Jews and Power." Reading Wisse's wisdom on the necessities of Jewish sovereignty convinced Sabrina that great texts were the only way to combat anti-Semitism effectively. "Being an effective advocate means knowing what you're talking about," Sabrina says. Primary source texts, from Herzl to Jabotinsky, gave her an understanding of the founding principles of the state of Israel. But combating anti-Semitism requires not only an understanding of foundational texts. It also requires coming to terms with the practical realities of Jewish public policy choices in the present day. Sabrina credits Tikvah Senior Director Alan Rubenstein for explaining the dangers posed by "diversity, equity, and inclusion" policies in American higher education.

Addressing an audience of Jews and Christians, Sabrina spoke in front of hundreds of thousands at the November 2023 March for Israel in Washington, and followed up with guest appearances on television. She affirmed her commitment to wearing a Star of David in public and combating anti-Semitism through Jewish strength rather than hiding from the mob.

Facing threats from Students for Justice in Palestine, Sabrina turned to friends in the Tikvah community for fellowship and practical assistance. "Zionism and Anti-Zionism," a Tikvah film created by Zoe Tara Zeigherman with the participation of Einat Wilf, became a touchstone in Sabrina's life. Speaking at the Los Angeles premiere of the film, Sabrina highlighted the importance of balancing activism for Israel with intellectual rigor rooted in Jewish history.

Growing up, Sabrina's mom used to make her write stories as a punishment. Now she loves to write, and frequently pens pieces in the *Jerusalem Post* and U.S. outlets about campus issues, but also about her upbringing and the personal elements to her Jewish identity. Before college, Sabrina had already published her first book, *My Mother's Mirror*. She intends to continue to use her voice and her writing to tell empowering Jewish stories.



## Tikvah Students and Alumni in Focus

## J.J. Kimche

J.J. Kimche has been studying and teaching Jewish ideas throughout his adult life. From Jewish philosophy at a prominent yeshivah, to Greek philosophy at a pre-army academy in Israel, and courses in both Jewish and Western intellectual history at Shalem College and at Harvard University, where he is a PhD candidate, J.J. has covered a lot of intellectual ground. However, it's because of his experience with Tikvah that J.J. became a public voice on contemporary issues of anti-Semitism in the West and a notable podcaster and writer on Jewish ideas for mainstream publications.

Awarded a Krauthammer Fellowship in 2021, J.J. Kimche set out to develop expertise on the thought and impact of Rabbi Jonathan Sacks. He ended up publishing numerous works of Jewish intellectual history for national magazines, covering figures as diverse as the Talmudic sage Elisha ben Abuyah, the British historian Paul Johnson, and the modern philosopher Baruch Spinoza. The Krauthammer Fellowship gave him the necessary support system to develop his historical writing for the broader public.

The scholarly pursuits of research and writing are often solitary, but joining Tikvah's community of emerging writers in the Krauthammer Fellowship, with the "support of excellent editors who actually scrutinize my writing", was essential in encouraging J.J.'s written output. "Through Tikvah I've met many people that I wouldn't have necessarily come into contact with, in the fields of media, public policy, the law, and journalism." After October 7th, J.J. played a crucial role in denouncing the moral rot at his home institution, within the Harvard student body. He was the first pro-Israel graduate student to reach a broad audience through television shows such as Fox Business and papers like the *Wall Street Journal*.

In addition to his popular podcast, "The Podcast of Jewish Ideas," which engages scholars from across the globe in conversation on Jewish themes, and his work as a translator, editor, and author, J.J. also relishes teaching various cohorts of Tikvah students. "Tikvah's belief is that learning for learning's sake is a good thing for the individual, but also that learning is good for society as a whole."

J.J. believes having a hand in forming the views of a younger generation is an extraordinary experience. He will soon graduate with a PhD in Jewish History and Culture from Harvard University and will continue to teach and write.



## Tikvah Students and Alumni in Focus

## Sahar Tartak

Sahar's name appeared in many media outlets this year when she fell victim to anti-Semitic violence, but she is not feeble. An on campus leader, her writing extends far beyond the campus. Shortly after beginning her undergraduate career at Yale, Sahar was published in the *Wall Street Journal*, and she later interned as a journalist at *National Review*.

In the *Wall Street Journal*, Sahar focused on the impact of critical race theory in public schools. Back when she was in her high school's student government, she was instructed by her teachers to donate funds to a "racial equity" group fighting "systemic racism." She fought back and took her case to New York District officials, arguing that students must learn that America is a fundamentally good country, not a racist one. Her mentor, the writer and sometimes Tikvah lecturer Abigail Shrier, encourages Sahar to not only speak her mind in criticizing the failings in elite institutions, but to preserve and protect the good. "She has values, positive values; real beliefs," Shrier said. "She has a beautiful, traditional view of the good."

It was in April 2024, however, that her name made international headlines, after Sahar was stabbed in the eye with a Palestinian flag by an on-campus protestor. Alan Rubenstein, Tikvah Senior Director, provided Sahar with access to the resources she needed to stand up for herself and for the entire Yale Jewish community in response. She took to the *The Free Press*, which published her account of the flag stabbing and brought global attention to Yale's failure to discipline a dangerous minority of pro-Hamas students.

While both public schools and elite institutions face rampant problems, Sahar has taken solace in Tikvah's programming. The highlight of Sahar's year was working as a counselor at the Tikvah Scholars Program. Sahar was deeply inspired to see brave, unafraid high school students put up a huge Israeli flag in the cafeteria. She helped convene classes on Western and Jewish thought and cherished the experience of joining students in what was for some their first Shabbat.

What's next for Sahar? October 7th did not shake her faith in America, but she acknowledges that she has a responsibility to strengthen the United States. Belonging to America is "a blessing. I plan on doing my part to make America a great place for everyone."

Alongside her writing and activism, Sahar is a communal leader at Yale, where she has hosted hundreds of students for Shabbat dinners.





## THE LOBEL CENTER FOR JEWISH CLASSICAL EDUCATION

The Lobel Center for Jewish Classical Education is focused on four major initiatives: developing and disseminating a new K-12 curriculum that immerses students in the best of Western and Jewish civilization, recruiting and training master educators, partnering with Jewish schools across North America, and advancing the cause of Jewish classical education.

**26**

MA Degree  
Students

**112**

Partner  
Teachers

**21**

New Titles  
& Textbooks

46 Lobel Teachers Colloquia

48 MA in Jewish Classical Education

50 Lobel Classical Press

52 "The Pillars": Jerusalem, Athens, and the Western Mind

# Lobel Teachers Colloquia

Building a community of educators and school leaders committed to Jewish classical education



The Lobel Teachers Colloquia were launched to recruit, convene, and collaborate with exceptional educators who share our vision of the educated Jew. Each colloquium is a dynamic, multi-day intellectual retreat at Princeton University during which attendees explore the core ideas and enduring relevance of Jewish classical education.

Our participants are drawn from every key discipline of teaching and learning—including the history and literature of Western civilization, Tanakh and Jewish thought, modern Hebrew, American history, classical languages, and the natural sciences. These gatherings present an opportunity to build a vibrant, growing network of educators who aspire to bring Jewish classical education to schools across North America and around the world.



Since 2023, the Lobel Teachers Colloquia have had:

<b>6</b>	<b>142</b>	<b>74</b>
Colloquia	Teacher Participants	Schools Represented

## Meet Our Colloquia Participants

Educators from diverse fields of Jewish and general studies joined the colloquia. Meet a few of our teachers:



### RABBI JESSE SHORE

Yeshivat He'Atid, Judaic Studies Teacher

“This was a thought provoking and hopeful experience for me. I gained exposure to a community of thinkers and colleagues who share the same concerns, values and sense of mission in nurturing the Jewish future.”



### JOSEPH CARDINALE

Davis Renov Stahler Yeshiva High School, English Language Arts Teacher

“Every session was illuminating and instructive on both a spiritual and practical level. Grateful to be in the presence of such inspired and thoughtful minds, aligned in pursuit of a similar values and prepared to put their ideas into practice.”



### AVIVA MOSHE

Brauser Maimonides Academy, Hebrew Language Teacher

“I am looking forward to implementing Jewish classical education in my school, providing students with a rich, culturally grounded, and intellectually stimulating learning experience.”

## Working Groups & Partner Schools

This year's colloquia included attendees from a diverse array of educational institutions.

Akiba Yavneh Academy  
 Bais Yaakov Machon Ora  
 Barkai Yeshivah  
 Bi-Cultural Hebrew Academy  
 Chofetz Chaim  
 Emek Hebrew Academy  
 Frankel Jewish Academy  
 The Frisch School  
 Fuchs Mizrachi School  
 Hasten Hebrew Academy of Indianapolis

Havruta  
 Hebrew Academy of Long Beach  
 Heichal Hatorah  
 Lubavitch Girls HS of Chicago  
 Maimonides School  
 Manhattan Day School  
 Margolin Hebrew Academy  
 Moriah School  
 Oakland Hebrew Day School  
 Ramaz

SAR Academy  
 Yeshiva of Flatbush  
 Yeshiva Schools of Pittsburgh  
 Yeshiva University High School for Girls (Central)  
 Yeshiva University High School of Los Angeles (YULA) - Boys

# MA in Jewish Classical Education

A Masters program designed for the next generation of Jewish day school teachers

Developed in partnership with the University of Dallas—one of the premier universities dedicated to classical education—the Tikvah MA program was launched to provide intensive training to aspiring and established educators who seek the substantive knowledge and pedagogical skills to bring Jewish classical education into their classrooms.

This fall, we entered the second year of our MA program, continuing to immerse aspiring and experienced teachers in the core subjects of the Western classical tradition in a uniquely Jewish way. Our students come from a wide range of backgrounds and share one common purpose: the renaissance of Jewish classical education.



UNIVERSITY OF DALLAS

Our MA program has:

**26**  
Students

**12**  
Core Courses

**36**  
Required Credits

## A Unique Core Curriculum

The Tikvah MA is a 36-credit program, offered both part-time and full-time.

FALL 2024

**HUM5623:** Great Works of the Ancient World (3 credits)  
**HUM5625:** Great Works of the Renaissance (3 credits)  
**HUM6340:** Trivium (3 credits)

SPRING 2025

**HUM8724:** Great Works of the Medieval World (3 credits)  
**HUM8756:** Great Works of the Modern World (3 credits)  
**HUM8665:** Quadrivium (3 credits)

SUMMER 2025

**HUM4865:** Summer Intensive (3 credits)  
**HUM4897:** Classical Pedagogy (3 credits)

FALL 2025

**PHIL5382:** Philosophy of Education (3 credits)  
**ELC4721:** Elective (3 credits)  
**MAT2021:** M.A. Thesis (6 credits)

SPRING 2026

**HUM8756:** Great Works of the Modern World (3 credits)

## Tikvah Course Offerings

Since the launch of our program, Tikvah has offered a new course each semester:

### Classical Pedagogy, Ancient and Modern

This course considers the practical implications of classical principles of liberal education for modern classroom management, student-teacher interaction, instructional methods, assessment, and other aspects of the contemporary school setting, in each context comparing classical pedagogy to contemporary pedagogical methods.



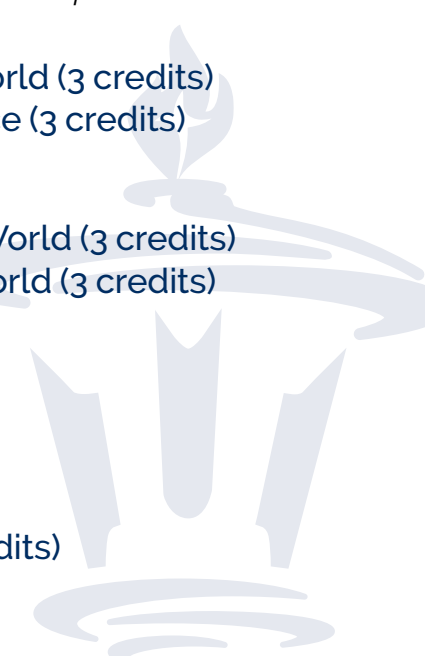
### The Art & Practice of Teaching Culture in a Jewish Context

This course offers students the opportunity to observe, discuss, and imitate master teachers engaged in the art of teaching culture. Readings and class discussion are framed by the question of what culture is, why it still matters, and how we can teach our students to understand and appreciate it, considering works by Allan Bloom, Roger Scruton, and Michael Wyschogrod.



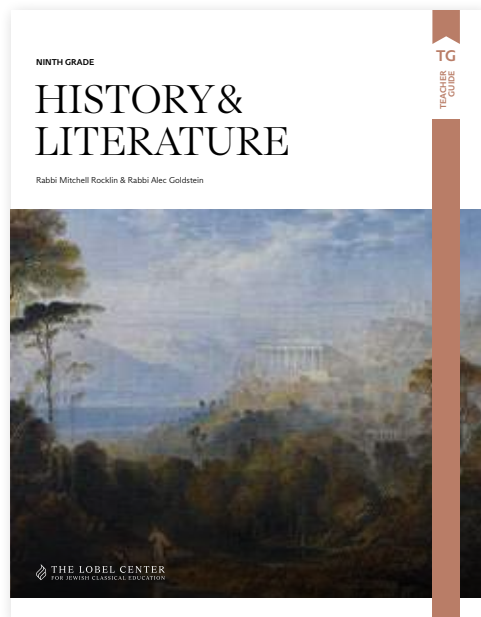
### Great Works of the Ancient World

This course studies key sections from the greatest classics of the Ancient Near East, Greece, Rome, and Judaism, including the Bible, Aristotle, Herodotus, Thucydides, the Talmud, and others. The course guides teachers on how to introduce these texts in their own classrooms, enabling them to help their own students understand how vital Judaism is to Western civilization.



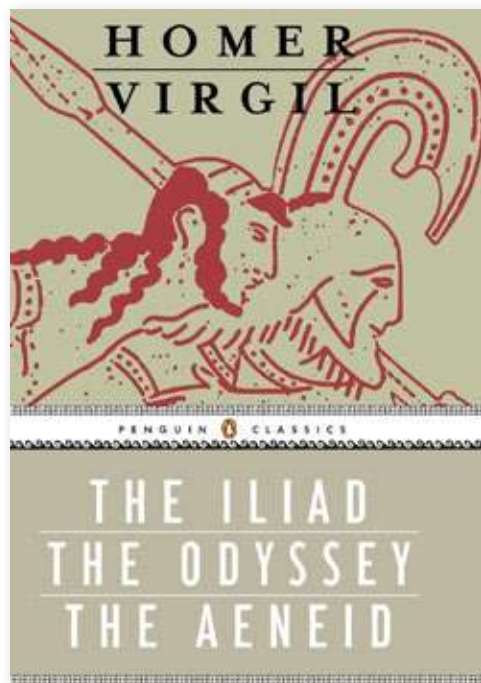
# Lobel Classical Press

Developing a K-12 curriculum of excellence for Jewish schools around the world



This year, the Lobel Classical Press completed a number of important titles, including historical and literary texts focused on the ancient Greek world, several masterworks of literature, and the first major part of our integrated high-school curriculum on Western civilization.

The Lobel Classical Press was launched to produce an integrated course of study for many key subjects, including history, literature, Tanakh, Jewish philosophy, and Hebrew. We have assembled a team of editors, intellectuals, and educational leaders to spearhead this multi-year project. Now in our second year, we have released 21 titles and our works have been adopted by educators in more than 30 Jewish schools.



In the 2023-2024 Academic Year, the Lobel Classical Press had:

**21**  
Published  
Curricula

**30+**  
Schools Using  
Our Curriculum

## — Bringing Jewish Classical Education to Life —

Some examples of how Lobel Classical Press aims to change how Jews learn:



### 9th Grade Western Civilization (combined history and literature)

This year-long curriculum begins with the dawn of civilization in Egypt around 3000 BCE, to the rise of Greece and Rome, to the world of the Middle Ages. It weaves together history, literature, poetry, mythology, philosophy, and theology. Special focus is given to Jewish ideas—such as covenant—and their profound impact on the formation of the West.

### Black Ships Before Troy

*Black Ships Before Troy* is Rosemary Sutcliff's classic retelling of the *Iliad*. The first version of the curriculum was developed to help students obtain a thorough understanding of the mythology, history, geography, and vocabulary related to this epic story. This Lobel edition of the work introduces Jewish themes relevant to the narrative and provides extensive exercises to support in-class instruction on reading comprehension, writing, and grammar.



### Famous Lives of Ancient Greece

*Famous Lives of Ancient Greece* describes the historical figures and the contributions of the Greek playwrights and philosophers. These stories take the form of brief, exciting biographies of the most famous figures of Greek history. In addition to modifying the existing text to make it more friendly for a Jewish audience, the Lobel adaptation includes new chapters that tell the stories of historic Jewish figures of this era, such as Shimon HaTzaddik (Simon the Just), Philo of Alexandria, and Hillel and Shammai.



### Hamlet

*Hamlet* is often considered the greatest work ever written in the English language. The Lobel guide to *Hamlet* explores the major civilizational and Jewish themes of the play. Highlighting the move from classical tragedy to a new form of modern tragedy that may not even deserve the term "tragic," the guide equips teachers to explain how Jewish ideas moved the West from a focus on fatalism to a reliance on agency. The guide includes analytical questions and dramatic exercises that can be performed in and outside of class.





# An In-Depth History, Episode by Episode

All 200+ episodes will be released over the course of the next year, below are the first 15 episodes.



An Introduction to The Pillars

EPISODE 0 | 39:12



Why the West? Its Greatness and Openness to Culture

EPISODE 1 | 45:50



Cult and Culture: Understanding Man's Creation and the Dawn of Civilization

EPISODE 2 | 36:44



The Jew in the West: His Covenant, Place, Influence, and Responsibility

EPISODE 3 | 28:06



Revitalizing the West By Rediscovering Its Jewish Roots

EPISODE 4 | 38:04



Eastern Origins and Biblical Clash: The West's Roots in the Ancient Near East

EPISODE 5 | 34:58

## An Exploration of Jerusalem, Athens, and the Western Mind

Over the course of two years and 208 episodes, The Pillars explores the grand history of Western civilization from the ancient Near East to the modern age. Led by Rabbi Dr. Mitchell Rocklin, this magisterial new series will cover the profound impact of Abraham and Moses, the enduring legacy of Hesiod and Homer, the philosophical inquiries of Plato and Aristotle, the virtues of Cicero and the vices of imperial Rome, the intellects of Maimonides and Aquinas, the art of Michelangelo and Raphael, the literature of Shakespeare and Cervantes, the music of Bach and Mozart, and the poetry of Blake and Byron. And at every turn, Rabbi Rocklin will consider how the Jewish understanding of man as covenantal, sacrificial, and redeemable was integral to the development of Western civilization.



**2**  
Episodes  
per Week

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**40**  
Minutes  
per Episode

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**208**  
Total  
Episodes



Egypt Through the Middle Kingdom: Memphite Theology and the Story of Sinuhe

EPISODE 6 | 35:15



The Hebrew Neighborhood: The Concert of Powers, Phoenicians, and Canaan

EPISODE 7 | 28:29



From Hebrews to Jews: The Development of a Covenantal People

EPISODE 8 | 27:07



The Iron Age: Neo-Assyrian and Neo-Babylonian Empires

EPISODE 9 | 32:41



Myth and Mentality: The Bible vs. the Epic of Gilgamesh

EPISODE 10 | 39:21



Back to the Beginning: Biblical Creations Covenantal Partnership

EPISODE 11 | 37:55



The Bible on Government: How a Nation Should be Ruled and Redeemed

EPISODE 12 | 46:23



The Hebrew Bible: A Covenantal Walk-Through

EPISODE 13 | 38:49



Jews and Greeks: A Match Made in Heaven?

EPISODE 14 | 28:29



# Emet Classical Academy

America's first classical Jewish prep school opened in the fall of 2024 with a clear vision: to pursue excellence in every academic and cultural endeavor, to form confident Jews and civic-minded Americans, and to preserve the best of Western civilization. At Emet, we prepare our students for lives of liberty and purpose—including the ability to pursue truth, appreciate beauty, and live virtuously. Emet's intellectually curious and academically gifted students are given the opportunity to thrive in a culture of ideas, extracurricular excellence, and vibrant Jewish life.

**2024**

Year of  
Founding

**33**

Students in the  
Inaugural Class

**8**

Emet Faculty  
with PhDs

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58 Seven Key Pillars

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60 Spotlight: Emet Faculty

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# Emet Classical Academy

Emet Classical Academy – America's First Classical Jewish Prep School



Emet Classical Academy is a Jewish preparatory school for 5th to 12th graders on the Upper East Side of Manhattan. Emet's educational mission is clear: the pursuit of human excellence in every academic and cultural field and the formation of proud Jews, committed Zionists, and patriotic Americans. Our academic program focuses on the best of Western culture, the foundational ideas of Jewish civilization, the mastery of Hebrew and classical languages, and the advanced study of math, modern science, art, and music. Emet aims to prepare our students for lives of purpose and civic leadership.

The school opened its doors in September 2024. As part of the daily curriculum, Emet also offers physical education in the form of self-defense with IDF Krav Maga instructors. Students learn the riches of high culture, art, poetry, music, and architecture. From concerts at Carnegie Hall to viewings at the Met, from singing Hatikvah every morning to eating together in the Sukkah, we seek to awaken wonder at the heights of human excellence and stir the Jewish soul.



## Emet Convocation

In September, we celebrated the inaugural convocation of Emet Classical Academy in the beautiful and historic sanctuary of America's oldest Jewish Congregation Shearith Israel. Our Emet community came together for moving remarks on the eternal spirit of the Jewish people by Rabbi Meir Soloveichik and the founding cities of Western civilization by Princeton Professor Robert George, along with a master musical performance by virtuoso violist Davide De Ascaniis.



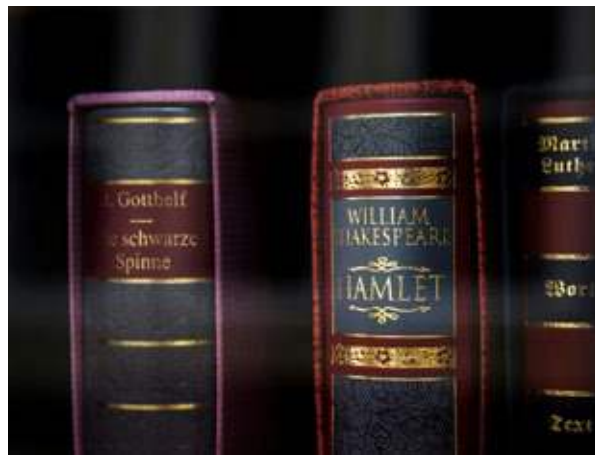
## The "Truth" Series: Douglas Murray

Emet is not just a school. It's a community of ideas. This fall, we launched a series of conversations—targeting parents with Emet-aged children—on the most important truths at the heart of American and Jewish civilization. Our first speaker was the great intellectual Douglas Murray, who explored why classical education is central to saving the West.



# Seven Key Pillars

These principles guide our culture, our faculty, our curriculum, and our standards of Jewish excellence



## Pillar 1

### The Classical Arts of Learning

Every student will master the classical arts of grammar, rhetoric, and logic, giving them the foundational skills and habits of mind necessary for clear reasoning, strong writing, public speaking, and close analysis of texts and ideas.



## Pillar 2

### Classical Languages

Every student will study the foundational languages of Jewish and Western civilization: Hebrew and Greek or Latin.



## Pillar 3

### The Majesty of Western Civilization

Every student will understand, explore, and appreciate the great ideas, great books, and majestic history of Western civilization, the Jewish people, and American democracy.



## Pillar 4

### The Mastery of Advanced Math & Science

Every student will master the advanced study of mathematics, biology, chemistry, and physics, awakening wonder about the marvels of the natural world and developing the necessary skills to pursue a career in any field of science or technology. For clear reasoning, strong writing, public speaking, and close analysis of texts and ideas.



## Pillar 5

### The Riches of Art & Culture

Every student will appreciate the riches of high culture—art, poetry, music, and architecture. Our program in Western culture will draw heavily upon the world-class resources of New York City.



## Pillar 6

### The Spirit of American Citizenship

Every student will be prepared for the responsibilities of American citizenship and the opportunities of entrepreneurship, civic leadership, and public service.



## Pillar 7

### The Confident Jew and Zionist

Every student will develop a strong foundation in Jewish texts, ideas, and practices; a deep commitment to Jewish life and identity; and a strong connection to Zionism and modern Israel.

# Spotlight: Emet Faculty

Emet's founding faculty is comprised of educational leaders and scholars who joined the school from around the country. We invite you to meet three of the educators who are bringing Emet's vision to life:

## Dr. Christopher Briscoe: Mathematics and Physics

### What's your academic background, and what is your vision for math and science at Emet?

I hold a Ph.D. in Theoretical Physics, with a particular focus on statistical mechanics. This pursuit, naturally, required a profound and multifaceted understanding of mathematics. In my current role at Emet, I am dedicated to the creation of a new kind of school—one in which mathematics is approached both rigorously and holistically. My aim is to engage students at an earlier stage, equipping them with the tools of both precise, granular logic and high-level abstraction.

At Emet, I envision that our students will be prepared to master calculus early in their high school careers, while simultaneously gaining a deep appreciation for the wide-ranging applications of mathematics—especially in the disciplines of physics and chemistry. Regrettably, such interdisciplinary connections are often overlooked in the current academic landscape. These connections are vital to a truly effective education, even for those students who may not pursue a technical field in the future.

### Any memorable teaching moments so far?

A particularly memorable teaching moment occurred in our Algebra II class, when we delved into the concept of complex numbers. While the students demonstrated a keen ability to solve problems involving these abstract mathematical objects, they questioned the necessity and practicality of complex numbers. They asked: "Why?" This led to a vibrant group discussion, in which I had the opportunity to explain, at a high level, the profound importance of complex numbers in solving differential equations and their essential role in the study of quantum mechanics. While these topics are well beyond the scope of our Algebra II curriculum, the students left the discussion with a deeper appreciation for the far-reaching applications of mathematics, and the realization that the study of abstract concepts often carries with it practical, real-world implications.



## Mr. Benjamin Gottesman: Tanakh and Jewish Thought

### How did you get immersed in the world of Jewish ideas, and what attracted you to Emet?

After two years in Jerusalem's Yeshivat Hakotel, I studied at Rabbi Meir Soloveitchik's Straus Center of Torah and Western Thought at Yeshiva University. We explored the West's great political and literary works in conjunction with the full depth and breadth of the Jewish tradition. I joined Emet because only a full-time Jewish school allows us to curate a student's educational journey in its entirety. We believe that our message of the importance of robust, classical education and fierce, unyielding Jewish pride should not be relegated to Sundays and evenings. The Tikvah vision should inform the guiding principles of young Jews everywhere. Emet allows me and my colleagues the opportunity to advance that mission to its fullest.

### Why is the Hebrew Bible so foundational to this vision?

It has been a privilege to expose some of our students to the Book of Genesis for the first time. My classroom is loud and lively as students uncover the moral philosophy laden in the text. Does trusting in God mean you cannot have agency? Do we have a greater responsibility to family or faith? Are leaders culpable for the sins of the citizenry? These are the questions that the Hebrew Bible demands we wrestle with, and our students are eager to join this eternal dialogue.

### Any memorable moments so far?

Over the festival of Sukkot, we were able to move our usual lunch period to the sukkah. Every day of the holiday, students were able to make the blessing over dwelling in the sukkah and take the lulav and etrog, fulfilling the 3,300-year-old biblical commandment of the four species. For many of our students, this was the first time they performed this ritual. For so many Jews, the richness of Judaism is foreign. This past Sukkot, our students made their tradition as their own. In my mind, that's our goal at Tikvah: to empower young Jews to confidently claim their birthright.



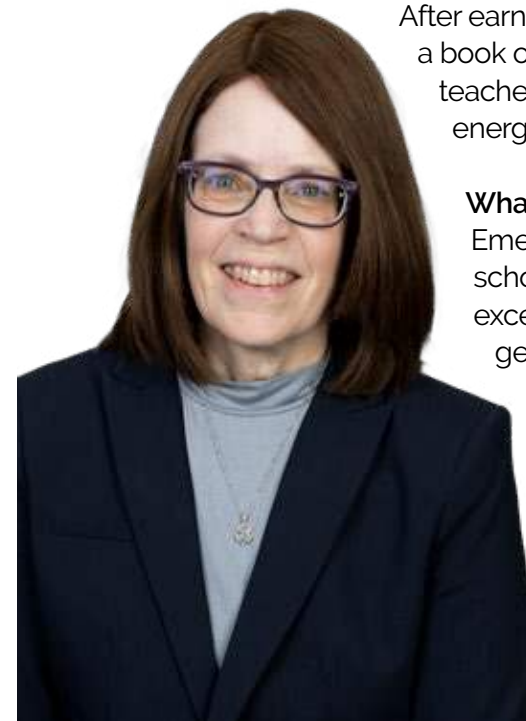
## Dr. Chana Ruderman (Principal): Western Civilization

### After 20+ years as a school principal in Dallas, why did you join Emet?

I accepted the position of Principal and Academic Dean of Emet Classical Academy because it integrated two passions of my life that had previously been disparate. I love great books and ideas. After earning a PhD at the University of Chicago's Committee on Social Thought, I wrote a book on Jane Austen and taught top college students. Secondly, I love working with teachers and students in a Jewish setting. Emet brought this all together—with an energy and commitment to excellence that inspires me.

### What makes Emet so unique?

Emet is a school unlike any other I have ever experienced. It is not a Jewish day school that keeps Judaic studies in a separate sphere. At Emet, students pursue excellence through the study of Western civilization, an endeavor that requires a genuine understanding of the West's Jewish roots. The students in my middle-school classrooms read challenging texts, not young adult novels, and find them interesting because they address issues of real weight. This week, several 5th graders engaged in a spontaneous debate about whether Achilles' anger was justified. They were beginning to see that the book (a retelling of *The Iliad*, read along with passages from *The Iliad* itself) has something to say about this fundamental human emotion—the problem of anger—that is relevant to their own lives and to understanding our civilization.





## Tikvah Ideas

Through essays, books, podcasts, and video courses, Tikvah Ideas advances the most serious thinking about the major challenges facing the Jewish people and explores the enduring riches of Jewish, Zionist, and American civilization. Our aim is to shape Jewish public discourse at the highest level and to kindle Jewish souls by probing the depths of the Hebraic and Western traditions.

ADVANCING  
JEWISH  
THOUGHT

Mosaic

RABBI MEIR  
SOLOVEICHIK

קרן תקווה  
TIKVAH  
ONLINE UNIVERSITY

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# Mosaic

Ideas, arguments, and reasoned judgment in all areas of Jewish endeavor

Mosaic's monthly essays offer serious analysis and intellectual provocation on every subject that matters to the Jewish people. Through original writing, and our indispensable Editors' Picks digest of Jewish news from around the web, we cover politics, society, culture, and religion with unrivaled depth.



**91,000+**  
Newsletter Subscribers

**400+**  
Unique Voices

**2 Million+**  
Site Visits

## Defining Monthly Essays

### Jewish Studies Against the Jews

MAY 2024 *Andrew Koss*



College campuses have become one of the most important breeding grounds for anti-Zionist activism, and Jewish students at elite institutions are growing ever more fearful. Yet in the face of rising hostility to Jews and Israel, Jewish studies departments and professors have been strangely silent. In this timely piece, a longtime student and teacher of academic Jewish studies seeks to discover why, by analyzing broader trends within the field. Through a look at the history of Jewish studies and its place within the academy, this essay explains how and why Jewish studies so often fails to serve the Jewish people.

### Is War with Lebanon Imminent?

APRIL 2024 *Raphael BenLevi*



Since war broke out between Israel and Hamas in Gaza in October of 2023, the Jewish state has also been fighting on a second front against the Iranian-backed terror group Hizballah in Lebanon. Hizballah's rockets have made the civilian areas on the Lebanese border uninhabitable, and 80,000 residents of the north have been displaced. In an incredibly prescient piece written before Israel's recent invasion, one of Israel's leading national security experts analyzed the threat to the country's north, the roots of the security situation on the Lebanese border, and what a full-scale war could look like.

### A Special Dictionary for Israel

JANUARY 2024 *Shany Mor*



When it comes to describing Israel's actions in war and peace, words seem to take on new meanings used in no other context. Terms like "proportionality," "occupation," even "genocide" are bandied about with no regard to their historical and general usage. This cutting and insightful piece explains the weaponization and distortions of language that plague discourse around the Jewish state's fight to defend itself.

# The Tikvah Podcast

A weekly in-depth conversation on Jews, Judaism, America, and Israel with leading thinkers and policymakers

Hosted by Tikvah's Warren R. Stern Senior Fellow of Jewish Civilization and Chief Programming Officer, Dr. Jonathan Silver, the Tikvah Podcast invites listeners to a weekly discussion about Jewish ideas and Jewish history, literature and politics, Israel and America, timeless texts and current affairs.

The age of podcasts has given new life to serious conversation, and Jonathan Silver probes the most interesting and wide-ranging questions with his guests. Over the years, he has spoken with hundreds of writers, rabbis, educators, military officers, artists, and political figures, including members of Israel's Knesset, the U.S. Senate, and the prime minister of Israel. Episodes explore religious and political trends, important new essays and books, classic works of Jewish thought, and the state of Jewish politics in North America, Europe, and Israel.



**1.6 Million+**

Lifetime Downloads

**190+**

Guests Interviewed



## — Every Week, a Conversation that Matters —



### Jonathan Conricus, How Israeli Aid to Gaza Works

Despite slanders to the contrary, throughout Israel's war against Hamas, it has provided direct aid to Gazans and allowed for the distribution of foreign aid. To explain the historical and strategic context of this assistance, Jonathan Conricus—who formerly served as IDF international spokesman and once again acted as a spokesman for the Israeli army in the months after October 7th—joined the Tikvah Podcast. He discussed how aid gets into Gaza, how it is distributed (and often stolen), and who is truly responsible for the suffering of Gaza's civilians.

### Melanie Phillips, The 2024 British Election and the Jews

In July of 2024, Sir Keir Starmer was elected prime minister of the United Kingdom, and the Labour party returned to power after over a decade in the opposition. Since taking over Labour, Starmer has made a conscious effort to rebuild trust with the Jewish community after his predecessor Jeremy Corbyn had allowed far-left anti-Semitism to flourish in the party. British journalist Melanie Phillips joined the podcast to help us discern whether Starmer really is different from his predecessor in practice and policy toward Israel and the Jewish people.



### Ruth Wisse, The Explosion of Anti-Israel Protests on Campus

Anti-Israel campus activism has taken a dark turn. Advocacy for peace and a two-state solution has been replaced with chants of "globalize the intifada" and calls to eliminate the Jewish state. Many Jews have become fearful of being open about their faith or their Zionism, and university administrators have acted fecklessly. Professor Ruth Wisse has been sounding the alarm for decades about the rise of anti-Semitism within the supposed citadels of liberal tolerance, and she offers her thoughts on what we've seen play out on campus over the past many months.

### Cynthia Ozick, A Jew Who Becomes a Tormentor of Other Jews

In the 1850s, when a young Italian Jewish boy named Edgardo Mortara fell ill, his family's Christian maid had him secretly baptized. So Edgardo, then six years old, was removed from his family against their wishes by the pope, and instructed in the Catholic faith. This is the background to a magnificent work of short fiction by Cynthia Ozick, "The Story of My Family." Ozick retells the kidnapping of Edgardo Mortara as remembered by his nephew's daughter who has moved to America. On the Tikvah Podcast, Ozick discusses the meaning of a tale about a Jew who becomes a tormentor of the Jews, and how such theological disturbances can rattle future generations.



# MeirSoloveichik.com

Rabbi Meir Soloveichik is one of America's preeminent Jewish thinkers and rabbis. MeirSoloveichik.com is the home of his seminal podcasts, courses, essays, and events.

## Bible365, Jerusalem 365, & Parashah and Politics

For three years, Rabbi Soloveichik has worked with Tikvah to produce sweeping studies on the entire Hebrew Bible, the 4,000-year history of Jerusalem, and each and every weekly Torah portion. In the Bible 365, Jerusalem 365, and *Parashah & Politics* podcasts, Rabbi Soloveichik weaves together Jewish learning, American history, high culture, archaeology, literature, and the miracles of the Zionist story in order to show how the wisdom of the Jewish tradition can continue to inspire and sustain the Jewish people today.



## "Journey Through the Siddur" & "Journey Through the Mahzor"

The Jewish weekday and holiday liturgies—written over a thousand years ago in archaic Hebrew and Aramaic—can confound even Jews who pray regularly. In two limited-series podcasts, *Journey Through the Siddur* and *Journey Through the Mahzor*, Rabbi Soloveichik explains the history and meaning of Judaism's most essential prayers, shining new light on how the Jewish prayerbook can shape our souls.



## Sacred Time

In his latest book, *Sacred Time*, Rabbi Soloveichik makes the case that the rhythms of the Jewish calendar are a key that unlocks the very essence of Judaism. Contending that Jews find holiness not only in space, but also in time, he offers a careful study of the Sabbath, the holidays, and the fast days of the Jewish year. In so doing, Rabbi Soloveichik reveals the holiness that ensures the Jewish people's endurance through the ages.



MeirSoloveichik.com—the online home of Rabbi Meir Soloveichik—now has:

**64k+**

Newsletter  
Subscribers

**708**

Podcast  
Episodes

**300+**

Hours of Unique Jewish  
Learning Opportunities

## Coming in 2025



### Ten-Minute Mitzvah

The rabbinic tradition identifies 613 commandments, *mitzvot*, that govern every aspect of Jewish life—from how to pray and what to eat, to family life and contract law, to politics and military ethics. In this year-long, daily podcast, Rabbi Meir Soloveichik will study every one of these commandments, explaining how each of them can help us better understand Judaism's unique approach to theology and how to build a flourishing world.



### The Great Rabbis of Jewish History

From Hillel and Yohanan ben Zakkai to Nahmanides and Rav Kook, the history of Judaism has been shaped by great religious personalities. In this video lecture series, Rabbi Soloveichik will explore the lives and communal leadership of some of the greatest rabbis in Jewish history. We'll learn how these figures played a part in shaping Jewish faith and the Jewish people as we know them today.



### Images of America: The Story of the United States in Five Paintings

In this new video course, Rabbi Soloveichik will delve into some of the greatest pieces of patriotic art in American history to see what they can teach us about the American soul. From the "Signing of the Declaration of Independence" to "Washington Crossing the Delaware," these paintings can help remind us of what it means to be an American, and how to recover a sense of proud citizenship in our society today.



### Special Events with Rabbi Meir Soloveichik

Tikvah works with synagogues, philanthropists, and Jewish communities from Florida to London to host events and live conversations with Rabbi Soloveichik. He has spoken to enthusiastic crowds about everything from the Hebrew Bible and the war on U.S. history, to Tisha b'Av and the excommunication of Spinoza, to the Jewish meaning of America and lessons of the Jewish holidays.

# Tikvah Online University

Our series of in-depth video courses explores the riches of Jewish civilization with master teachers and thinkers

Our vision for Tikvah Online University is to create the most interesting Jewish studies department in the world, with courses on the Hebrew Bible, Jewish and Zionist history, Jewish literature and philosophy, and the Jewish meaning of Western civilization.

Our courses allow anyone in the world to study the masterworks of Jewish literature with Ruth Wisse and Rabbi Jeffrey Saks, the meaning of Jewish history with Rabbi Dr. Jacob J. Schacter, the philosophy of the Hebrew Bible with Micah Goodman and Leon Kass, the Zionist story with Daniel Polisar and Martin Kramer. Tikvah Online University brings these exceptional teachers to life, capturing for all time and for everyone the courses they've perfected in lecture halls around the world.



<b>59k+</b> Online Enrollments	<b>138</b> Video Episodes	<b>17</b> Master Teachers
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Jon D. Levenson  
**God and Man in the Book of Genesis**



Leon Kass  
**Founding God's Nation: Reading Exodus**



Micah Goodman  
**Deuteronomy: The Last Speech of Moses**



Micah Goodman  
**The Book of Samuel: Religion, Power, and the Longing for Order**



Micah Goodman  
**The Book of Job: Power, Justice, and Divine Ethics**



Micah Goodman  
**The Human Condition: A Philosophical Reading of Ecclesiastes**



Jacob Wisse  
**The Artistic Legacy of the Hebrew Bible**



Rabbi Meir Soloveichik  
**Words That Changed the World: The Meaning of the 10 Commandments**





Course Catalog: Department of  
**JEWISH HISTORY**



Rabbi Meir Soloveichik  
**Four Thousand Years of  
Jerusalem**



Rabbi Jacob J. Schacter  
**Creativity and Confrontation:  
The History of  
Medieval Jewry**



Allan Arkush  
**The Drama of Modern  
Jewish History**



Rabbi Meir Soloveichik  
**Jewish Ideas and the  
American Founders**



Rabbi Meir Soloveichik  
**Jews and the  
Civil War**



Rabbi Meir Soloveichik  
**Jewish Political Greatness:  
Studies in Statesmanship**



Course Catalog: Department of  
**ZIONISM & MODERN ISRAEL**



Yoram Hazony  
**The Meaning of Jewish  
Nationalism**



Daniel Polisar  
**The History of Zionism:  
Building the Impossible  
Dream**



Micah Goodman  
**Debating Zionism**



Daniel Polisar  
**Theodor Herzl: The Birth of  
Political Zionism**



Martin Kramer  
**Declaring Israel's  
Independence**



Daniel Gordis  
**Menachem Begin: Israel's  
Jewish Prime Minister**



Michael Doran  
**Israel on the Precipice: The  
Yom Kippur War at 50**



Einat Wilf & Zoé Tara Zeigherman  
**Zionism and Anti-Zionism: The  
History of Two Opposing Ideas**



Course Catalog: Department of

## JEWISH CULTURE & IDEAS



Ruth Wisse  
**Daniel Deronda**



Ruth Wisse  
**Sholem Aleichem's Tevye the Dairyman**



Rabbi Jacob J. Schacter  
**Majesty and Humility: The Life, Legacy, and Thought of Joseph B. Soloveitchik**



Ruth Wisse  
**The New York Intellectuals**



Rabbi Jacob J. Schacter  
**The Jewish Meaning of Memory**



Jeffrey Saks  
**The Jewish Genius of S.Y. Agnon**



Ruth Wisse  
**The Wisdom of Jewish Literature**



Ruth Wisse  
**The Liberal Betrayal of the Jews**

An Interview with

# Rabbi Dr. Jacob J. Schacter

## Creativity and Confrontation: The History of Medieval Jewry

**There are so many opportunities and places for high-level Jewish learning today. Why do you choose to work with Tikvah?**

There are three reasons. One is the people. The people at Tikvah are people of substance, of internal depth, and with a very strong commitment to Jewish ideas and the Jewish people. I feel like I'm surrounded by like-minded individuals who are pushing to make a difference. Number two, the range and quality of the programs. The impact is very profound. The quality is of a very high caliber. There's a standard here. That very much speaks to me and resonates with me, and it's something I want to be a part of.

Finally, and maybe even most importantly, are the values that Tikvah represents in an unabashed, proud, and proactive way. Tikvah stands for appreciating and understanding the importance, and the value, and the preciousness of the United States of America. Tikvah is unabashedly Zionist and appreciates what the State of Israel means for the Jewish people. This is an organization that is increasingly taking a stronger and more public role in many different areas, pushing back against the monsoon of ideologies that I believe are destructive to the Jewish people and to America.

**Why create a course on medieval Jewish history?**

One cannot possibly understand what is going on today in the world without understanding what came before. You can't understand Zionism without understanding the yearning of the Jewish people for the land of Israel. That was a major focus of the medieval Jewish experience. You can't understand freedom, autonomy, and the notion of choice without understanding what it meant to live in a medieval community and what it meant to be a part of a world where there were certain given expectations with tremendous implications. You can't understand nationalism without understanding what the world was like before there were nation-states. You can't understand how Jewish law unfolds without realizing that it did not parachute into the 19th or 20th century. Halakha is built on a whole fulcrum of traditional sources and thinking and development—a great deal of which happened during the medieval period.

**What do you notice about your students at Tikvah?**

**How are they different?**

I have found my students at Tikvah to be extremely committed, extremely smart, extremely wise, and very high-level. The ones that I've interacted with most directly have been rabbinical school students, rabbis in the field, and internationally-renowned educators of all backgrounds who Tikvah brought together from Europe, Israel, and the United States to study with me on various topics. The common denominator here is a thirst for knowledge, an openness to challenge, and a desire to understand in the most profound way.



An Interview with

# Professor Ruth Wisse

A preeminent scholar, a wise teacher, and a fearless voice of Jewish political courage, Ruth Wisse exemplifies Jewish leadership in argument and ideas.

## What draws you to writing in *Mosaic* and teaching at Tikvah?

I have never been in a learning and teaching environment that was so exciting and so fulfilling in every way—despite the fact that I've spent my entire life in the academy and in the world of ideas.

## What makes the Tikvah community distinct?

First of all, because it has the energy and excitement of something that hasn't been tried before. Second, the people who teach and study at Tikvah believe in the power of ideas to shape human history, both for good and for ill. Third, Tikvah is responding to a crisis that has grown much more severe in recent years. Americans have lost confidence in themselves, in their country, in their Constitution and Bill of Rights. These are some of the greatest achievements of human history, yet so many people have ceased to take pride in them, and to make the effort to transmit them to the next generation. And Jews are experiencing something similar.

Worse, bad ideas are driving out the good. Tikvah aims to stop that process by taking responsibility for the best of Western civilization and for the best of Jewish civilization.

## At Harvard and at Tikvah, you've pioneered a way of teaching Jewish literature that focuses on the existential, moral, religious, and national questions facing the Jewish people. Why take this approach?

It's the opportunity to address precisely these questions that drew me to this subject. Teaching Jewish literature is unlike teaching any other literature in the world. It's a literature that exists in seven or eight languages, and through it you can teach the entirety of the Western experience. And it grew out of a response to a crisis of transmission that has a lot in common with the one we face today.

## You've also taught a class about the New York intellectuals. Why do you think these thinkers are so important?

These American Jews, children of immigrants, began to realize that they had a role to play in bringing strains of Europe into America with a new confidence, and also in interpreting America in a new way. And they realized that as newcomers they had amazing insights into their country that others didn't.

This group created a world of ideas all of its own, which was very much a product of a particular moment in history that's now gone. It's our responsibility to build on what they accomplished, through institutions like Tikvah and through publications like *Mosaic*.





# Supporting the State of Israel

Tikvah has always been invested in the state of Israel—particularly in educating its future leaders. In helping to found Jerusalem's Shalem College—the first-ever Israeli BA program with a dedicated core Great Books curriculum.

Tikvah has helped form a generation of leaders steeped in Jewish and Western tradition and dedicated to shaping the character and future of their nation. Many Shalem graduates remain energetically engaged as Tikvah students and teachers. Tikvah also helped launch Herut, a Jerusalem-based think tank and educational center dedicated to advancing new thinking on the great political, economic, and strategic challenges facing modern Israel.

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# Supporting Shalem College

A Jewish liberal arts college focused on educating Zionist leaders



Founded in 2013, Shalem College is a four-year undergraduate program in the very heart of Jerusalem. Its purpose: to immerse the future leaders of Israel in a core curriculum of Jewish, Western, and Zionist civilization.

Over the past two decades, Tikvah has partnered with Shalem—initially as a think tank and now as a degree-granting college—to strengthen the intellectual leadership of the Jewish state. Shalem is expanding towards 200+ full-time BA students, and Shalem graduates have already emerged as leaders in the worlds of business, education, and public policy.



SHALEM COLLEGE  
המרכז האקדמי שלם

Three Unique Majors:

Middle Eastern and Islamic Studies  
Strategy, Diplomacy, and Security  
Philosophy and Jewish Thought



Spotlight on: Dean of Faculty

## Dr. Leon R. Kass

Excerpts from Dr. Kass's Herzl Prize Address at the 2023 Jewish Leadership Conference

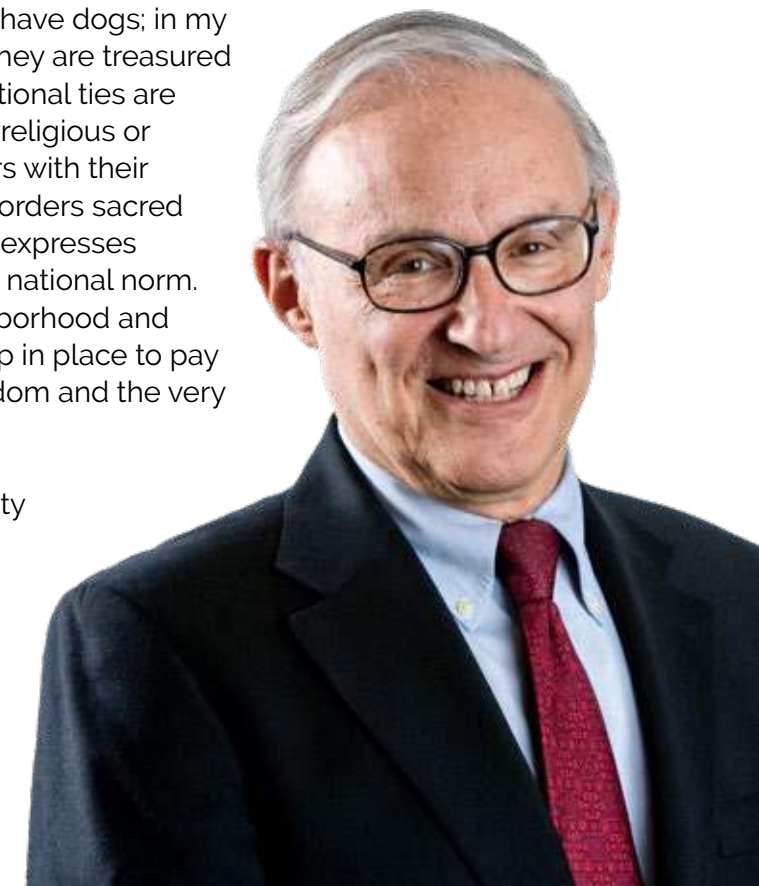
Although the Jewish people are few in number and in some respects a nation apart, they are a people of enormous consequence for the world.

First, ideas central to America and Western—that is, Judeo-Christian—civilization first entered the world through the Hebrew Bible: all men are created equal; respect for life; the Ten Commandments. America's political ideas may come from Locke and Montesquieu; modern science and technology are largely of European and North American origins. But humanly, morally, and religiously speaking, the West—whether it still knows it or not—is at its root and at its best a biblical civilization.

Second, in this time of moral confusion and social fragmentation, Israel by its example has something to teach us—if we only pay attention. Since I started living long stretches in Israel in 2016, I have increasingly felt that Israel is today the moral capital of the West. Yes, its political institutions are notoriously weak; the country harbors deep divisions; and it suffers thus-far-insoluble problems with its neighbors. But let's look not at the headlines, but at everyday life as lived.

Israel is the only Western country that lives with a vital devotion to its future: alone in the developed world, Israel has a birthrate above replacement, almost three children per woman per lifetime (in the U.S., 1.6 and falling), with a low level of out of wedlock births (in the U.S., now 40 percent). In my neighborhood in Washington, people have dogs; in my neighborhood in Jerusalem, people have children, and they are treasured above all else. Extended families are strong, intergenerational ties are celebrated, tradition is alive, rich, and well. Most Israelis, religious or not, and no matter the distance, have Friday night dinners with their parents. The holy tongue is the vernacular, the calendar orders sacred time, ancestral ghosts walk the land, and popular music expresses spiritual longings in biblical idiom. National service is the national norm. Memorial Day is marked with ceremonies in every neighborhood and with a national minute of silence, as people and cars stop in place to pay respect for the fallen soldiers to whom we owe our freedom and the very existence of our nation.

As these past weeks have shown, Israeli national solidarity runs very deep; people, without leadership from the top, organize themselves by the hundreds and thousands to stand with and provide for those in need. Haredi men are volunteering for the army; secular soldiers are requesting tzitzit. At bottom, one nation, indivisible—an island of cultural and moral sanity in a world gone mad.



# Herut Center

A new independent think-tank and educational center devoted to Israeli strength, sovereignty, and freedom



Over the past decade, Tikvah created a network of programs, publications, and people in Israel devoted to one clear purpose: building a new generation of Israeli leaders with serious ideas about how to strengthen the Jewish nation.

With our strong support and encouragement, this effort—in true Zionist fashion—has now been established as an independent Israeli think tank: the Herut Center for Israeli Liberty, under the capable leadership of our long-time partner Amiad Cohen. We wish Herut every success at this vital moment in Jewish and Zionist history.



## How Herut is Reshaping Israeli Society

*Herut operates a range of initiatives which promote new ideas in Israeli public discourse.*



### Argaman Institute

Educating the next generation of Israeli political, intellectual and civic leaders. Each year, about 100 exceptional college students and young professionals undergo an intensive year of learning, analyzing the great challenges facing modern Israeli society. Alumni bring new thinking to the Israeli public square, and fresh ideas to the realms of politics, journalism, law, national security and education.



### Law & Liberty Forum

Cultivating the next generation of Israeli legal thinkers, judges and policymakers who believe in the core principles of judicial restraint, the separation of powers, and limited government; in the face of a great and unresolved debate about the question of Israeli legal reform that touches on religion, national security, the economy, and the general political culture.



### Iyun Institute

Strengthening the Haredi contribution to the Israeli body politic by creating new publications, programs, fellowships and institutions, led by Rabbi Yehoshua Pfeffer. The Haredi community is growing faster than any other sector of Israeli society, making it more important than ever for Haredi citizens to contribute to the economic well-being, political strength, and national security of the Jewish state.



### Shibolet Press

A Hebrew-language book series bringing the most important books—both enduring classics and new works on current affairs—to the very center of Israeli discourse, publishing 10 books per year on social and economic thought, military strategy, political biography, Jewish history, and modern Zionism.



### Hashiloach Journal

Israel's most influential journal of political, cultural and economic ideas, publishing long-form essays on every aspect of Israeli society—from the future of the Israeli economy to the meaning of Zionism; from the transformation of the Middle East to the reform of Israeli schools; from Israeli military strategy to the vitality of the Israeli family.



### The Hertog Forum for National Security

An annual conference of world leaders analyzing the major strategic challenges facing Israel, America, and the West; offering new thinking about how Israel and its allies can navigate a world of grave dangers and new opportunities, from the Iran threat and the strategic ambitions of Russia and China, to the possible normalization of Israel-Saudi relations and the future of the U.S.-Israel alliance.

# October 7th: The Need for Jewish Resolve

## October 7th: A Mosaic Symposium

In the weeks after October 7th, as the Jewish world was still reeling, Mosaic invited some of the sharpest writers on Israel, the Palestinians, and the Middle East to share their thoughts about the attack, Israel's war against her enemies, and how both would change the Jewish state and the entire region for years to come.



"Ecstasy and Amnesia in the Gaza Strip," by Shany Mor



"The Humiliation of Jews Is the Point," by Jonathan Silver



" Hamas's Messianic Violence," by Hussein Aboubakr



"The Whole Middle East Is Counting on Israel to Destroy Hamas," by Evelyn Gordon



"Israel's Existential Struggle Is Also the West's," by Arthur Herman



"America Can No Longer Wait to Put Its Own House in Order," by Stephen Peter Rosen



"The Social-Media War," by Arieh Kovler



"Left, Right, Haredi: Three Great Awakenings of the Gaza War," by Yehoshua Pfeffer

## One Year Later: A Retrospective



For the first anniversary of October 7th, Tikvah convened some of the most interesting thinkers in the Jewish world for a roundtable discussion on this past year and what we've learned from it. Ruth Wisse, Dara Horn, Liel Leibovitz, Elliot Kaufman, and Jonathan Silver asked how Jews today can stand tall for our interests, reject a victim mentality, and defend America against enemies who hate not only Israel but Western civilization itself.

## Jewish Values and Strategy in Wartime

In the days immediately after October 7th, Tikvah launched 35 online courses for students and adult learners on military strategy and ethics, Zionist history, Jewish responses to war and tragedy, and more.



America's Role in the Middle East



American Jew - What is Our Duty?



Anti-Semitism - The Ideology of Jew Hatred



Arab Terrorism and the Jewish Iron Wall



Great Zionist Leaders- David Ben Gurion



Great Zionist Leaders- Menachem Begin



Hamas - Its Origins and Ideology



Holy Land - The Bible's Vision of Zion



Israel and the American Presidency



Israeli Missile Defense - An Overview



Jewish Faith in Dark Times



The Arab-Israel Relationship - Past, Present, Future

## Tikvah at the March for Israel in Washington

Approximately one month after the heinous attacks of October 7th, some 290,000 participants traveled to Washington, DC for a mass demonstration to stand in solidarity with the hostages, to stand against escalating anti-Semitism in America, and to show bipartisan American support for Israel. Tikvah students, staff, trustees, and families all participated in advocating for the Jewish people.





# Tikvah Community

Building a new generation of committed Jews and Zionists. Learning from the most important teachers in America and Israel. Standing together for our most cherished Jewish and American values. Finding a Jewish home and haven in turbulent times. The Tikvah community offers deep purpose and fraternity to its diverse members.

**600+**  
Society  
Members

**8,662**  
Unique  
Donors

**193k+**  
Members of  
The Tikvah  
Community

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# Jewish Leadership Conference

Tikvah's annual summit on the big questions confronting America, Israel, and the Jewish people



The Jewish Leadership Conference (JLC) was founded in 2017 to bring together the world's leading thinkers, statesmen, and institution builders to discuss the major challenges and opportunities facing Jewish civilization in the modern age.

Each year, hundreds of Tikvah supporters, students, and alumni come together to discuss why Jewish ideas are essential to the renewal of Western civilization and to debate the critical issues facing the Jewish people, Israel, and American democracy. The JLC embodies the spirit of Tikvah—gathering leaders, focusing on serious ideas, and building a movement dedicated to shared ideals.



Since 2017, the JLC has convened:

<b>6k+</b> Participants	<b>102</b> Speakers	<b>98</b> Sessions
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## JLC 2024: In Focus

*Our defining theme this year: The Jewish Fight for America*



JLC 2024 focused on the Jewish responsibility to strengthen America, and in particular, on one of the country's most contentious arenas of intellectual and moral conflict: the college campus. No American institution touches more American Jews than our colleges and universities. But patriotic Americans and proud Jews have ceded the academy to administrators and activists who are hostile to Israel, America, and the West. The results are plain for all to see: a generation molded by anti-Semitism, anti-Americanism, and hostility to our civilizational inheritance. Together with the JLC's featured speakers – Nikki Haley, Jonathan Haidt, Dan Senor, Rabbi Meir Soloveichik, Ruth Wisse, Yuval Levin, Michael Oren and others – Tikvah convened this major conference to galvanize the Jewish fight for America.

### Dr. Ben Sasse, 2024 Herzl Prize Laureate

No university president has led their campus with greater clarity and courage than the former University of Florida president, Ben Sasse, our 2024 Herzl Prize Laureate. As the leader of the American university with the most Jewish students in the country, he helped the University of Florida blossom into one of the most significant educational institutions in America. He fostered a culture of intellectual seriousness, moral clarity about the evils of anti-Semitism, and pride in the American rights of speech and expression. Dr. Sasse's leadership in the elevation of the Hamilton Center and its incorporation of Hebraic ideas into the study of American and Western culture, and his vision of educational renewal echoes Tikvah's animating mission.

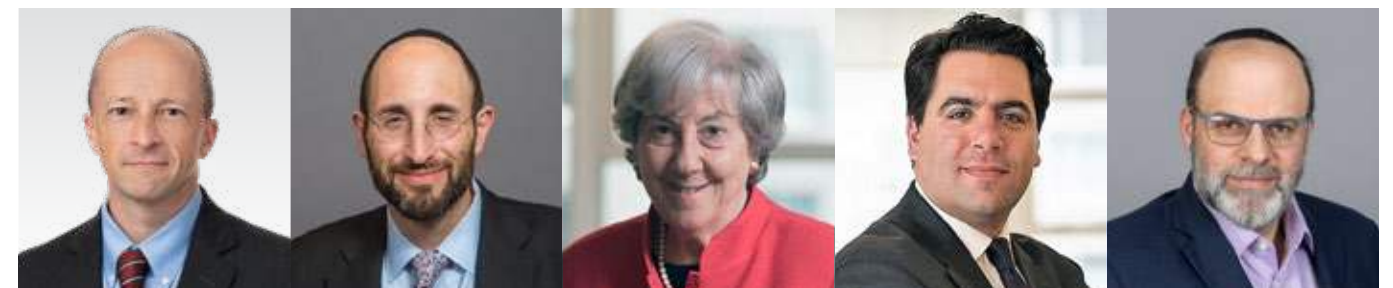


## Meet Our 2024 Speakers

*Here are just some of the leading thinkers and institution builders who joined us at JLC this year:*



Dr. Jonathan Haidt    Hon. Nikki Haley    Hon. Elliott Abrams    Michael Oren    Dan Senor



Dr. Yuval Levin    Rabbi Dr. Meir Soloveichik    Dr. Ruth Wisse    Jonathan Silver    Eric Cohen

# Jewish Parents Forum

A national community of parents committed to raising morally courageous Jews, Zionists, and American citizens



JPF Executive Director: Caroline Bryk

The Jewish Parents Forum (JPF) is a growing movement of parents and grandparents who believe that transmitting Jewish and Zionist values to our children and strengthening Jewish education are our greatest civic responsibilities.

Founded in 2021, JPF already has thousands of members across North America. Our participants join with leading thinkers and practitioners to consider the practical challenges facing Jewish parents today; to strengthen their own Jewish and Zionist identities, and to work together as they navigate modern American life. JPF events have covered a variety of topics such as the perils of social media, the rise of anti-Semitism and anti-Zionism in American schools and universities, the themes of Pirkei Avot, and how parents and educators can partner to build a strong moral foundation for young people.



Jewish Parents Forum

Since 2021, the Jewish Parents Forum has convened:

**29**  
Events

**15k+**  
Attendees

**60**  
JPF Leadership Circle Members

## A Generational Challenge

*The Impact of Technology on the Rising Generation*

Under the leadership of Tikvah's Jewish Parents Forum, Jewish day schools have led the way nationally in tackling the challenges posed by ubiquitous devices. Through JPF's events, discussions, and conferences, school leaders and parents have developed new policies and communal roadmaps that have been adopted across the country.

### The Great Rewiring

On December 6th, 2023, Tikvah's Jewish Parents Forum convened a novel type of gathering: 3,000 parents, along with leadership and faculty hailing from 50+ Jewish day schools, joined in person and on Zoom for a serious discussion with Dr. Jonathan Haidt, on the perils of a phone-based childhood and how schools and parents could partner to help young people flourish in a digital age.



### Jewish Schools & Technology Summit

From March 31st-April 1st, 2024, school leadership teams and lay leaders from 50 Jewish schools convened in midtown Manhattan for the first-ever Jewish Schools & Technology Summit. Together, they heard from leading experts in the fields of medicine, psychology, and education, participated in group workshops, and began to re-assess and reformulate technology policies in their schools.



“ I am so grateful to JPF for their work on educating the community about the mental health concerns around smartphone usage, especially for children and teens. JPF has empowered both parents and school administrators to take bold steps towards a healthier future for all of our children.”

*Nava Krohn, Emergency Medicine Physician*

“ JPF has offered me clarity on a variety of complicated issues and the inspiration to focus more of my own effort and action on protecting and strengthening my own communal institutions. It has made me a stronger parent with a better sense of what I want to build within my own home and has also connected me to many incredible moms along the way!”

*Kim Rechtshaffen, JPF Leadership Circle Member*



# Tikvah Society

The Tikvah Society is a philanthropic community interested in Jewish, Zionist, and American ideas; committed to a strong and sovereign Israel; and devoted to ensuring that young Jews have the moral and intellectual courage to advance Jewish civilization in the modern age. With more than 600 members across North America and Israel, the Tikvah Society is your gateway to a world of Jewish, Zionist, and American ideas and to a social network of friends with shared ideals and values. Join us today and invest in Jewish and Zionist excellence.



**Kim Pimley,**  
Tikvah Advisory Board

“ Following October 7th, Tikvah students and alumni arose like lions. They took to the media, college campuses,

courts, and political arenas to ferociously fight for Israel and against anti-Semitism. They published op-eds, appeared on news shows, filed lawsuits, and transfixed a political convention and the world that watched it. When you join the Tikvah Society, you invest in the next generation of great Jewish leaders.”



**Dave Schimel,**  
Tikvah Advisory Board

“ For those who want to protect and preserve generations of American Jews through outstanding educational programs

that address Jewish traditions and their ongoing contribution to Western Civilization, there is no more meaningful opportunity to do so than by becoming a Tikvah Society member. Do it for the Jewish people; do it for your community; do it for yourselves.”



### Annual Membership Levels

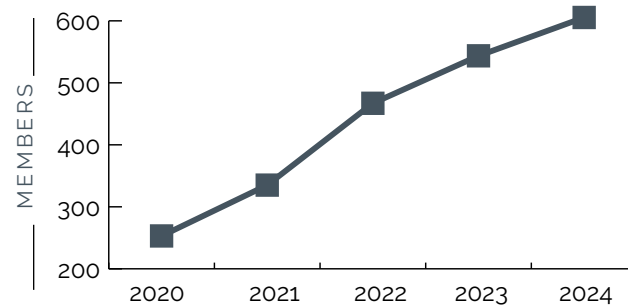
SOCIETY MEMBER  
**\$2,000**

SOCIETY PARTNER  
**\$5,000**

SOCIETY LEADER  
**\$10,000**

SOCIETY BENEFACTOR  
**\$25,000**

### Tikvah Society Growth



Join the Tikvah Society  
[tikvah.org/society](https://tikvah.org/society)

To learn more about—or to join—the Tikvah Society, please contact Eytan Sosnovich, Senior Director of Development. [esosnovich@tikvah.org](mailto:esosnovich@tikvah.org) | 917-408-3433

# Meet Our Supporters

## KURT AND SUSAN SCHWARTZ, TIKVAH SOCIETY BENEFACTORS

### What inspired you to get involved with Tikvah?

Our connection to Tikvah began when we attended the 2018 Jewish Leadership Conference in New York. As conservative Jews from Massachusetts, we found it inspiring, heartwarming, and empowering to be surrounded by like-minded people who shared our language and values. Since 2018, we have been faithful members of Tikvah's community, participating in many programs including Tikvah's first two missions to Israel. What draws us to Tikvah is not just their incredible staff, community, and intellectually rigorous programming, but also their clear focus on education, Jewish ideas and leadership, and a strong U.S.-Israel alliance.

### Why do you support Tikvah's educational mission?

We believe Tikvah addresses critical challenges facing our community today and our priorities, including strengthening American Jews' connection to their Jewish values and history, and their commitment to Israel. In this moment of great trial, we believe Tikvah is stepping forward and meeting these challenges through its youth enrichment programs, including the launching of its grade school in New York (Emet Classical Academy), university programming to combat anti-Semitism across American college campuses and build strong future Jewish leaders, and adult education.

### What inspires your philanthropic leadership?

Our philanthropic activities and community engagement have long been focused on strengthening Jewish institutions and organizations, combatting anti-Semitism, and supporting Israel and Zionism. Today, as levels of anti-Semitism, particularly (but not only) in the form of anti-Zionism are exploding in the US and around the world, and Israel is under attack on all fronts and facing unprecedented existential threats, we feel a profound responsibility to ensure the Jewish people remain strong, unified, and steadfast at home and in our support of Israel. We prioritize involvement with, and support for institutions like Tikvah that offer innovative programs and solutions that support the advancement of Jewish life in America and the State of Israel, and where we can maintain personal connections within their communities.



# Tikvah Legacy Society

The Tikvah Legacy Society—founded in 2022—honors supporters who have committed to safeguard and strengthen the Jewish people for generations to come through planned gifts and charitable bequests. Such a legacy gift serves as a powerful testament of the core values you share with Tikvah: a commitment to Jewish excellence, Jewish strength, and Jewish continuity. Your gift will help Tikvah carry these supernal values forward to new generations.

## Ways to Leave a Tikvah Legacy



### Charitable Bequests

The most common and straight-forward way to support Tikvah into the future



### Gifts of Insurance, IRAs, and Other Beneficiary Designations

Designate Tikvah as a beneficiary of a savings account or insurance policy



### Gifts of Real Estate

Outright gifts of real estate can provide both immediate and long-term tax benefits and preserve the right for you to live on the property for life



Join the Tikvah Society  
tikvah.org/society

To learn more about—or to join—the Tikvah Society, please contact Malka Groden, Chief Development Officer.  
mgroden@tikvah.org | 212-796-1672

# Meet Our Supporters

**MRS. JUDITH FLEISCHER, CO-CHAIR OF THE TIKVAH ADVISORY BOARD**

### What inspired you to get involved with Tikvah?

In 2018, I saw an advertisement for the first Jewish Leadership Conference. Its intellectual themes and worldview were different from those of the Jewish organizations I knew in New York City and it captured my attention. I also wanted to explore my own Jewish heritage in ways I hadn't done before.

I enjoyed the conference, met interesting and like-minded people, and decided I wanted to learn more about Tikvah and what it had to offer. Since then, Tikvah has become an intellectual, social, and cultural home for me.

**In addition to supporting Tikvah's general education work, you have played an integral role in helping Tikvah develop a "Jewish Experience in America" civics curriculum for exceptional middle school students, which is the keystone of our Truman Scholars program. What attracted you to Truman Scholars and how did you decide to dedicate its curriculum in memory of your late husband, David?**

I think it's so important to teach young people about their heritage and to foster pride in Judaism, its history, and its central role in the formation of Western Civilization. The Internet and social media bombard them with information that can be damaging and discouraging to young minds. We need to teach our young people not only about who they are and to take pride in their heritage, but to fortify them against the forces that seek to damage and/or erase that heritage.

Sadly, since Oct. 7 and the reaction to it at American colleges and universities, it's become even more important. In two years, the first cohort of Truman Scholars alumni will be starting college and, depending on the institution, could well be facing significant animosity against Jews and Israel. They need to know that we are standing beside and behind them. I dedicated the Truman curriculum to David's memory because the well-being and flourishing of the Jewish people was a centerpiece of his life and of his philanthropic goals.

**You've served for the last two years as Co-Chairman of Tikvah's Advisory Board, so you have really seen and helped shape Tikvah's growth and evolution. What are you most excited about in the years ahead?**

I'm encouraged by Tikvah's growing reach and by the bold initiatives it has undertaken in the past few years. The silver lining of Covid was that Tikvah had to go online in a much bigger way, which helped it reach thousands of new people around the country and, indeed, the world. I'm also enthusiastic about Emet Classical Academy here in New York and about Tikvah's partnership with the Hamilton Center at the University of Florida. These much-needed educational initiatives will foster growth and, I hope, seed other opportunities.

Tikvah has become an important part of my life and I've found a deeply meaningful community through the Tikvah Society. Its lectures and courses for adults like myself enable me to learn about Judaism from scholars and intellectuals in ways that just are not available elsewhere.

### What inspires your philanthropic approach and leadership in the Jewish community?

My late husband David was my teacher when it comes to philanthropy. He was a generous man who grew up in mostly non-Jewish communities and throughout his life worked to establish connections with Jewish institutions. After college and four years of active duty in the US Navy, he sought out Jewish organizations here and in Israel that we could support. I continue that undertaking and look for institutions whose missions and philosophy are in keeping with his and my personal beliefs and that will nurture and enrich Jewish life and Jewish learning here and in Israel. Philanthropy not only benefits the organizations that I believe in -- it enriches my life.



# Join Our Community

Throughout the year, our Tikvah Society members come together around shared purposes and ideals

The Tikvah Society affords our most generous partners year-round opportunities for deep engagement—to special conferences and trips, private events and seminars with our leading teachers and writers, and firsthand learning experiences alongside the rising generation of Tikvah students. This past year, The Tikvah Society hosted programs in Palo Alto, Austin, Jerusalem, Deal, Aspen, and across the Tri-State Area, in addition to many lectures at our Tikvah Center in Midtown Manhattan. When you join the Tikvah Society, you are joining an intellectual community while also building the next generation of Jewish leaders.



*In May, we brought 30 of our Tikvah Society Leaders on a special mission to Israel led by Rabbi Meir Soloveichik. Throughout the trip, we moved from the heroic battles of ancient Israel to the brave martyrs of modern Zionism; from the holiest places of the Jewish past to the great issues facing the Israeli people today. Together we considered one big theme: why the greatest empires of history failed—and why the Jewish people endures.*

## A Full Menu of Programs & Opportunities



### CEO's Roundtable Discussions

Throughout the year, we host regular conversations between Tikvah CEO, Eric Cohen, and important public intellectuals such as Rabbi Meir Soloveichik; Commentary Editor, John Podhoretz; American Enterprise Institute Fellow, Yuval Levin; Tikvah Chairman and Council on Foreign Relations Fellow, Elliott Abrams, and others. These discussions are wide ranging and hit on the most important and pressing topics in American Jewish life.

### Bringing Tikvah to Communities around the Country

We work regularly with Tikvah Society members to host events in communities across the country. This year, we came together in Austin to discuss what it means to live a life of Jewish values and ethics. In Palo Alto, we explored the inextricable connection between the Zionist project and the story of America. In Aspen, we studied the history of the Zionist and Anti-Zionist movements. In partnership with Tikvah Society members, we are bringing Tikvah's ideas to the Jewish world.



### Special Events and Seminars at the Tikvah Center

The Tikvah Center in NYC is a thriving intellectual hub, and we regularly hold special events, dinners, and conversations for Society members. Earlier this year, we invited Tikvah Society members to an intimate discussion to launch Professor Ruth Wisse's new Tikvah Online University course on the New York Jewish intellectuals Abraham Cahan, A.M. Klein, Isaac Bashevis Singer, and H. Leivick—who changed the American cultural and political landscape in the 20th century.



### Front-Row Seat: Learning Alongside Tikvah's Students

Throughout the year, Tikvah Society members are invited to learn alongside our students—at summer institutes, conferences, seminars, programs, and graduations both in the US and Israel. These gatherings provide a front-row seat to the heart and soul of Tikvah: educating young Jews in the ideas that matter.



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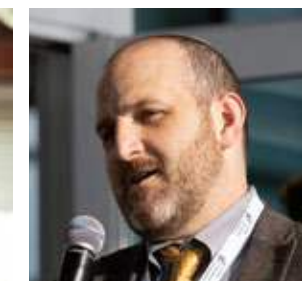
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