Naama Cohen, Tikvah Summer Fellow  
Israel

Naama Cohen is finishing her first year at the Hebrew University. After high school, she was a young *shlichah*, or emissary, to the Jewish community in MetroWest, New Jersey. In the army she served as an operations staff officer in the paratroopers. She worked as a counselor for high school groups traveling in Israel and in the last two summers volunteered in a Jewish summer camp for families in Ukraine. She is currently working to prepare next year’s emissaries for their trip to the Jewish community of New Jersey. She studies philosophy, economics and political science and is in Amirim, the honors program in the humanities, where she studied Talmud for the first time.

Laurence Cooper, Advanced Institute Participant  
United States

Laurence Cooper is a professor of political science at Carleton College, where he has taught ancient and modern political philosophy since 1997. Most of his research has addressed the question of human flourishing—what it is, how we can know what it is (if indeed we can know), what it requires from education and politics, and the risks that arise from misunderstanding it. In addition to numerous scholarly articles, as well as a few pieces on contemporary culture and politics, he has published two books: *Rousseau, Nature, and the Problem of the Good Life* (1999) and *Eros in Plato, Rousseau, and Nietzsche: The Politics of Infinity* (2008). His current research is an inquiry into the possibility of popular enlightenment. Professor Cooper also serves as director of Ethical Inquiry at Carleton (EthIC).

Netanel Fisher, Advanced Institute Participant  
Israel

Netanel Fisher received his Ph.D. in political science from the Hebrew University in 2011. His dissertation was devoted to the topic of Israel’s policy on conversion to Judaism from 1948 to 2004. After two years in the United States as a visiting scholar at the University of Pennsylvania and the University of Michigan, he is currently a visiting lecturer in the department of sociology, political science and communication at the Open University of Israel and the academic director of a research group on the topic titled, “Converts, Returnees, and Adherents: New Ways of Joining the Jewish People” at the Jerusalem Van Leer Institute. His areas of interest are religion and politics, comparative politics, and Judaic studies. Among his publications is his book on Israel’s conversion policy, *The Conversion Challenge in Israel*, forthcoming from the Israel Democracy Institute in 2014.
Zvi Friedlander, Tikvah Summer Fellow  
*Israel*

Zvi Friedlander, 27, is a third year student in Hebrew University’s Revivim program. He is working on his Master’s degree in history of the Jewish people after completing a Bachelor’s degree in Jewish philosophy and Bible studies. Next year will be his third year teaching Jewish studies in one of Jerusalem’s high schools. Aside from his teaching and studies, he works as a research assistant for a history professor and as a DJ at parties and weddings. Mr. Friedlander is married to Hallel, whom he met in Scouts in middle school.

Nadine Grzeszick, Tikvah Summer Fellow  
*Germany*

Nadine Ayelet Grzeszick was born and raised in Germany. She currently works as a freelance journalist and public relations officer. Ms. Grzeszick coordinates the media team of the Jewish Agency in Germany. She has written for Germany's largest Jewish newspaper, among other publications, and is a freelance blogger for the *Times of Israel*. After studying at the Hebrew University for a year, Nadine graduated from Heidelberg University in Germany. She holds an M.A. in English literature, Jewish studies, and religious studies and a B.A. in Islamic studies. Her area of specialization is American Jewish culture and literature.

Eliana Gurfinkiel, Tikvah Summer Fellow  
*Israel*

Eliana Gurfinkiel was born in Paris and immigrated to Israel at age 18. She has a B.A. in Jewish studies and Hebrew from the National Institute of Oriental Languages and Civilizations in Paris and a double major B.A. from Bar-Ilan University in history and Asian studies. She is currently finishing her M.A. in history, writing on collective memory in Normandy museums. She attended the Identity and Public Policy Program of the Jewish Statesmanship Center and the JSC Fellowship. She writes short stories and poems in French and enjoys photography. She often describes herself as having sparks in her head due to “too many ideas colluding in her brain.” She lives in Jerusalem.

Yitzi Hammer, Tikvah Summer Fellow  
*Israel*

Yitzi Hammer lives with his wife and two children in Netanya, Israel. He made *aliyah* from the United States in 2000, studied in Otniel Hesder Yeshiva, and served in the Combat Engineering Corps. He is currently studying towards an LL.B. in law and a B.A. in government at the Interdisciplinary Center (IDC), Herzlia. He has worked as a research assistant to Professor Aaron Kirschenbaum in the field of Jewish law. Recently Mr. Hammer represented the IDC in the International Committee of the Red Cross International Humanitarian Law Competition, a subject in which he is particularly interested. He is an avid reader, writer, runner, and biker and maintains a blog on the popular Israeli news site of the *Times of Israel*. 
Tsachi Herskowitz, Advanced Institute Participant
Israel

Isaac Herskowitz is a lecturer in the department of Jewish philosophy at Bar-Ilan University. His major research fields are modern Jewish philosophy, rabbinic literature, and religious responses to the Holocaust. He was a recipient of the Saul Kagan Claims Conference Fellowship and the Moses S. Schupf Fellowship for post-doctoral excellence and was a post-doctoral fellow at Yad Vashem's International Institute for Holocaust Research. He is the author of dozens of articles in these fields. He is in the final stages of completing a monograph on the life and works of Rabbi Dr. Mordekhai Vogelmann, rabbi of Qiryat-Motzkin and an esteemed Talmudic scholar and halakbic arbiter. Dr. Herskowitz is a research fellow at the Israel Democracy Institute, where his book, co-authored with Dr. Moshe Hellinger, Obedience and Disobedience to the State Law in Religious-Zionism (temporary title), is in press. In addition to his academic career, Dr. Herskowitz is rabbi of the Netzach Shlomo congregation (Religious-Zionist) in Petach-Tikvah. He spent eight years as a student and Talmudic researcher at Yeshivat haHesder in Ma’ale Adumim and taught Talmud and Jewish philosophy for four years at Yeshivat haHesder in Petach-Tikvah. He is married to Noa, and they have four sons.

Michael Hoberman, Advanced Institute Participant
United States

Michael Hoberman teaches American literature at Fitchburg State University and is a resident of Shelburne Falls, Massachusetts. He received his B.A. from Reed College and his M.A. and Ph.D. in American Studies from the University of Massachusetts, Amherst. He has written three books on New England culture and history: Yankee Moderns: Folk Regional Identity in the Sawmill Valley of Western Massachusetts (University of Tennessee Press, 2000); How Strange it Seems: Jewish Cultural Life in Small Town New England (University of Massachusetts Press, 2008); and New Israel/New England: Jews and Puritans in Early America (University of Massachusetts Press, 2011). He was the recipient of a National Endowment for the Humanities long-term fellowship at the Massachusetts Historical Society in 2008 and 2009 and a Fulbright Senior Lectureship in American Studies at Utrecht University in the Netherlands in 2010. He is currently researching the family correspondence of North American Jewish merchants during and immediately after the Revolutionary War.

Yaniv Holzman, Tikvah Summer Fellow
Israel

Yaniv Holzman is a law school student at Bar-Ilan University in Israel. He also works as a personal assistant to Rabbi David Stav, head of the Tzohar organization, which works to strengthen good relations between religious and non-religious Jews, both in Israel and abroad. Mr. Holzman was a member of the group that ran Rav Stav’s campaign for Chief Rabbi of Israel. Mr. Holzman served as a tank corps officer in the Israel Defense Forces, rising to the rank of lieutenant. Before his military service he studied for two years in Nitivot in the Hesder Yeshiva, which emphasizes giving to the community.
Charles Lesch, Tikvah Summer Fellow
United States

Charles H. T. Lesch is a Ph.D. candidate in the department of government at Harvard University. His work lies at the intersection of political theory, moral psychology, social theory, and the study of religion. He has written on the relationship between ethics and politics, political violence, the philosophy of history and memory, and the role of religion in our political and social thinking. The historical dimensions of his research center around Continental philosophy from the late 18th to the late 20th centuries with an emphasis on German Idealism, the Frankfurt School, and critical theory; modern and classical Jewish thought; and the development of civil society, focusing on questions of pluralism, social integration, and moral community. His dissertation examines the moral-psychological foundations of political community, exploring the ways in which our aesthetic and non-rationalist experiences shape the way we view our ethical and political obligations. His article, “Against Politics: Walter Benjamin on Justice, Judaism, and the Possibility of Ethics” (American Political Science Review, February 2014), situates Benjamin’s critique of Kant’s juridical thought in the tradition of Jewish political theology, yielding a novel theory of the normative status of politics. A former Fulbright Fellow, Safra Center Ethics Fellow, Harvard Presidential Scholar, and Phi Beta Kappa graduate of Yale College, he is also the co-author, with Nancy Rosenblum, of the chapter “Civil Society and Government” for the Oxford Handbook of Civil Society (2011). He lives with his wife in Brookline, Massachusetts.

Amir Mashiach, Advanced Institute Participant
Israel

Rabbi Dr. Amir Mashiach is married and has five children. He is head of the department of Jewish philosophy at Orot Israel College in Elkana, Israel and a lecturer in the department of Jewish heritage at Ariel University of Samaria. He has published in numerous academic journals, including Da’at, Diney Israel, the Hebrew Union College Annual, and others. On a weekly basis he writes a d’var Torah for a local newspaper, 471, and speaks on Sarah Beck’s weekly radio show. He is the author of the book Rabbi Shlomo Zalman Auerbach’s Halakhic Philosophy in a Dynamic Era of Socio-Technological Transformation (Bar-Ilan University Press, 2013; two printings). He is also the rabbi of the Tseirey Kfar Ganim congregation in Petach-Tikva.

Michael Millerman, Advanced Institute Participant
Canada

Michael Millerman is a Ph.D. candidate in political science at the University of Toronto. He is co-translator, from Russian into English, of Alexander Dugin’s book, The Fourth Political Theory, published in 2012; his recent translation of a book by Dugin on geopolitical theory will appear in print later this year. His current research focuses on Weimar anti-liberal thought (Heidegger, Schmitt, Strauss and the Conservative Revolution) and its repercussions on political theory in the United States, France, Germany, and Russia. His articles and reviews have been published or accepted for publication in the Journal of Eurasian Affairs,
Aristokratia, and Nations and Nationalism. Mr. Millerman holds a B.A. in philosophy from the University of British Columbia and an M.A. in political science from the University of Toronto.

Andrew Pessin, Advanced Institute Participant
United States

Andrew Pessin, a professor of philosophy at Connecticut College, specializes in early modern philosophy with emphasis on the philosophy of religion and metaphysics of the period. In addition to numerous articles, book chapters, book reviews, essays, and editorials, Dr. Pessin has published five books of philosophy and one novel. He is currently preparing two manuscripts: a monograph called Descartes, the Scholastics, and the Eternal Truths and a second novel, Levitas/Gravitas. Dr. Pessin has founded on his campus both a Talmud study group and an Israel study and advocacy group; and in recent years he has increasingly devoted himself, both professionally and personally, to the study of Jewish and Zionist thought and support of the Jewish state.

Leah Rahmani, Tikvah Summer Fellow
United States

Leah Rahmani recently graduated with a Bachelor’s degree in English literature from Touro College. Originally from Boston, she is currently working for the non-for-profit activist organization Americans for Peace and Tolerance as program coordinator. APT is committed to educating the public about the anti-Israel bias that exists within college campuses, public elementary and high schools, and existing Jewish organizations. Most recently, she has been involved with the documentary The J Street Challenge, the first film to confront J Street with the question of whether it is truly pro-peace and pro-Israel.

Roie Ravitzky, Tikvah Summer Fellow
Israel

Roie Ravitzky is a student of philosophy and Jewish thought in the honors program in humanities at the Hebrew University. He is a graduate of Yeshivat Ma'ale Gilboa. Trained as a tour guide in Jerusalem, he is also active in various interfaith and multicultural learning encounters.

Eliyahu Rosenfeld, Tikvah Summer Fellow
Israel

Eliyahu Rosenfeld is completing his B.Ed. in education in the Herzog College, majoring in Jewish oral law and literature. Next year, he will continue his studies in an M.A. program in Hebrew literature. In the past two years he participated in Tikvah's Great Books program at Herzog College. For the last three years he has
attended the Siach Yitshak Yeshiva and presently serves as the editor of its scholarly journal, *Kuntres*. He is currently a research assistant to Dr. Asael Abelman, who is publishing the writings of Hillel Zeitlin.

**Adi Sherzer, Tikvah Summer Fellow**

*Israel*

Adi Sherzer is a research associate in the department of Jewish history at Ben-Gurion University of the Negev. Last year he was a teaching assistant for Professor Hanna Yablonka, head of the Israel Studies department at the university. Mr. Sherzer’s work concentrates on Jewish traditions and the creation of new Israeli narratives; his research combines Israel studies, cultural history, and theory of nationalism. He is a member of the editorial board of *Israelim* magazine. He is also the main education officer at the Magal Formation Center for the Training of Combat Support Recruits in the IDF. He was formerly head of research and development at the Education and Hasbara Branch of the Chief Education Officer Headquarters.

**Abigail Dauber Sterne, Advanced Institute Participant**

*United States*

Abi Dauber Sterne is vice president for global Jewish experience at Hillel International. In this role she oversees Hillel’s Jewish content and programming initiatives around the world, including the Meyerhoff Center for Jewish Experience, Tzedek Weinberg Hillel, Engagement Internships, Senior Jewish Educators, and Engage2Educate. Her previous positions include director of the Mandel Jerusalem Fellows in Jerusalem, founding director of Limmud NY, and planning executive at UJA-Federation of New York. Ms. Sterne holds an M.A. in religious studies from the University of Pennsylvania and was a fellow of the Muehlstein Institute for Jewish Professional Leadership program. Over the past 10 years she has been active in various independent minyanim from New York to Jerusalem to Silver Spring, Maryland. She lives with her husband and three children in Silver Spring.

**Daniel Zemel, Advanced Institute Participant**

*United States*

Daniel G. Zemel is senior rabbi of Temple Micah in Washington, D.C., a position he has held since 1983. He views his primary role at Micah as that of a cultural translator, grappling with the challenge of translating our inherited Judaism into a theology and practice that speak to our place and time. Rabbi Zemel has contributed essays and articles to numerous journals and books. He is one of the founders of Micah House, a group home for formerly homeless women sponsored by Temple Micah, and is a member of the Synagogue 3000 Leadership Network. Rabbi Zemel pursued his undergraduate education at Brown University and his rabbinic education at the Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion in Jerusalem and New York. A native of Chicago, he received his earliest Jewish and secular education at the Anshe Emet Day School. He is married to Louise Sherman Zemel. They have three children. Finally, and for him most significant, Rabbi
Zemel is a devoted, passionate, life-long fan of the Chicago White Sox. His favorite pastimes include being in Israel, reading, and annually napping in his succah, dreaming of a return trip to the World Series for his White Sox.