



2020
Tikvah Summer Fellowship

BIO

Ashira Pollack is a rising senior at Yeshiva University's Stern College for Women, where she studies Political Science and Jewish Studies. She is the president of the Dunner Political Science Society and a contributing editor of the Undergraduate Law Review at Stern College. She is also an editor for Yeshiva University's Journal of Political Science: *The Clarion*, and an enthusiastic board member of Yeshiva University's College Representatives. During her free time, she enjoys engaging in pro-Israel advocacy work by attending conferences related to the topic and lobbying her representatives. After graduation in May 2021, Ashira plans on attending law school.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Motivated by her interest in the intersection of law and medicine, Ashira partnered with Rabbi Dr. Mitchell Rocklin and Howard Slugh of the Jewish Coalition for Religious Liberty (JCRL), to develop a legal guide for Jewish medical professionals and patients who find themselves in situations which give rise to a conflict between the law and their religious beliefs or conscience. The goal was to adapt the general aims of the Alliance Defending Freedom's "A Legal Guide for Healthcare Professionals" to address particularly Jewish concerns. Over the course of the summer, Ashira conducted interviews with various clergy members, healthcare professionals, bioethicists, and attorneys in order to determine the most pressing questions the guide should address. To form a deeper understanding of the religious liberty debate in America's legal arena, Ashira participated in a tutorial run by Dr. Vincent Phillip Muñoz of Notre Dame Law School. After developing a draft of the guide, Ashira began the writing process in earnest, and will continue to work with Tikvah, the JCRL and dedicated attorneys to develop this product.

Ashira Pollack

Ashira Pollack

YESHIVA UNIVERSITY



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Sam Foer

UNIVERSITY OF RHODE ISLAND

02



BIO

Sam Foer is a recent graduate of the University of Rhode Island, where he studied Philosophy and Political Science. He began his college education at Hampshire College, but transferred to URI after freshman year. Sam has previously interned with the Foundation for Individual Rights in Education (FIRE) and is the founder and president of BridgeUSA-URI, an organization dedicated to civil discourse and depolarization. He has worked tirelessly to fight for First Amendment rights at URI and is a staunch civil libertarian. He is also the co-founder and president of the URI chapter of the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU); and he sits on the Board of the RI State ACLU. Sam is an Intercollegiate Studies Institute (ISI) Honors Scholar and a 2019 Hertog Political Studies Program Fellow. Sam plans on eventually going to law school.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Sam's project investigated the dynamics of K-12 public school curriculum design and implementation, including the forces, organizations, policies, and people that operate behind the scenes to produce the curriculum content that reaches students. Specifically, Sam focused on the dynamics and actors that distort the curriculum content and instruction of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Sam interviewed Jewish professionals, including academics, practitioners, education leaders, and curriculum creators who are knowledgeable about the dynamics of public education curriculum and the topic of Israeli-Palestinian conflict instruction. For his deliverable, Sam produced a white paper report on this complex issue.

Sam Foer

BIO

Igor Sabino, a Brazilian native, is a Ph.D. candidate in Political Science at the Federal University of Pernambuco, Brazil. He holds a B.A. and an M.A. in International Relations from the State University of Paraíba, Brazil. As a Christian passionate about Human Rights and the Middle East, Igor has done volunteering work in Egypt and Lebanon. During three years, he worked as the Secretary for Refugees and Humanitarian Aid of the Brazilian National Association of Evangelical Jurists. An alumnus of Philos Project Leadership Institute 2017, Igor is the President of the Philos Brazil Chapter and dreams about raising up a new generation of Brazilian Christian leaders interested in the Middle East. Currently, on his PhD, he is researching about religious freedom and refugee protection, focusing on US Foreign Policy. He is also involved in a book project about Christian Zionism.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Historically, an important strategy of Israeli foreign policy has been the search for alliances with developing countries. In this sense, Brazil has appeared to be an important ally. Since being elected president in 2018, Jair Bolsonaro has promised to move the Brazilian embassy to Jerusalem and has expressed great support to Israel at the UN, motivated mainly by the growing Christian Zionist movement in Brazil. However, controversial statements by members of the current government about the Holocaust and trade relations with the Arab countries, have called into question not only the transfer of the embassy but the very potential of Brazil to become Israel's main partner in South America. In light of this, Igor, himself a Brazilian Christian Zionist, spent the last weeks researching the history of his country's relations with the Middle East and intends to write an article for Mosaic analyzing the future of Brazil-Israel friendship.

Igor Sabino

Igor Sabino

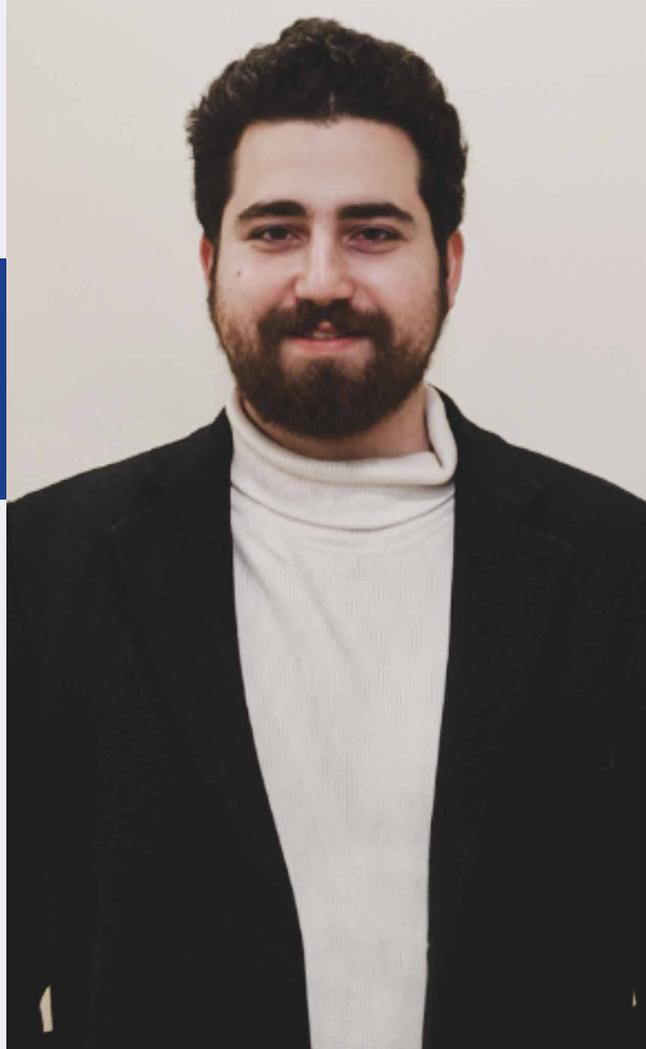
FEDERAL UNIVERSITY OF PERNAMBUCO



03

Mendel Uminer

COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY



04

BIO

Mendel Uminer, a Brooklyn, New York native, is a Sophomore at Columbia University, where he studies Philosophy and Middle Eastern Studies. He previously studied Political Science at Yeshiva University. Earlier, Mendel studied Talmud and Jewish Thought at Yeshivat Tomchei Tmimim in New York, in England, and in Israel. Mendel is passionate about Jewish history and Tikvah's mission to promote Jewish flourishing in the 21st century. Upon graduation, Mendel plans on going to Law School.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Mendel's project has been to study the idea of the family and its relation to political order. He has read from the Jewish tradition, classical philosophy and modern political philosophy as well as recent social scientific research. He has read works such as Aristotle's *Politics*, Rabbi Joseph Ber Soloveitchik's *Family Redeemed*, Nathan Tarcov's *Locke's Education for Liberty* and other books and articles. Mendel's research focuses both on the family as a religious ideal as well as its empirical function in society.

Mendel Uminer

BIO

Jake Greenspan recently graduated Phi Beta Kappa from the University of Chicago where he studied Fundamentals and served as a Student Marshal. At Chicago, Jake taught Humanities in South Side schools through the Civic Knowledge Project and pre-college Philosophy through the Collegiate Scholars program. Since September he has held a fellowship to write about the future aims of Liberal Education. At Tikvah this Summer Jake is excited to explore other approaches to education through the Jewish philosophical tradition and devise concrete applications for schools in the US. Next year Jake plans to continue this work abroad as a Fulbright fellow at Athens College in Greece, and afterwards hopes to pursue graduate work in the UK.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Jake has been investigating how best to integrate Classical Liberal Education with traditional Jewish learning for primarily pre-college students. To this end he has happily divided his time between several complementary ventures: first, close tutorial study with Dr. Harry Ballan and Rabbi Mark Gottlieb, primarily on the philosophical theology of Michael Wyschogrod and Joseph Soloveitchik; second, weekly participation in a pedagogy roundtable for young and veteran teachers; and third, work with Rabbi Dr. Mitch Rocklin on a fully integrated four-year Classical education curricula for Jewish high school students. In addition, Jake has taught a course for 7th and 8th graders in the Tikvah Online Academy on the Jews & Greeks: "Hero, City, Altar." The delights and difficulties of teaching over Zoom have reinvigorated Jake's interest in exploring the unprecedented educational opportunities that a pandemic and post-pandemic world presents, work which Jake is grateful to be continuing with Tikvah post-Summer.

Jake Greenspan

Jake Greenspan

UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO



05

Yael Medina

EMORY UNIVERSITY



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BIO

Yael Medina, born in Miami, FL, is a rising senior at Emory University, where she is a double major in Political Science and Jewish Studies. Yael has lived in four countries including the United States and Israel which have made her very passionate about diversity. She also spent time in Spain and Panama, contributing to her interest in international relations. At Emory, Yael is president of Eagles for Israel, a club that aims to educate students about Israel through the country's vibrant culture. After graduation, Yael hopes to work for a few years before going to law school.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Yael's project is focused on relationship building with Christian Zionists in a college campus setting. The goal is to create a cohort of pro-Israel individuals, who are able to focus on what brings them together, rather than what separates them. After conducting a survey titled "American Support for Israel," Yael put a focus group together to discuss a new initiative to build relationships between American Jews and Christians around support for the Jewish State, Christian communities in the Middle East, and all those who are working for a more tolerant and peaceful region. Simultaneously, Yael created a presentation titled "Pro-Israel Advocates: What you Need to Know About Christian Zionism," to create an educational resource for students. The resource pulls from various sources, including Samuel Goldman's *God's Country*, Gerald McDermott's *The New Christian Zionism*, and a number of articles on the subject.

Yael Medina

BIO

Nisim Nesimov, a West Bloomfield, Michigan native, graduates in 2020 from Wayne State University in Detroit, Michigan where he studies finance. At Wayne State, Nisim was involved in various Jewish organizations, including Hillel, Students for Israel, and the Alpha Epsilon Pi fraternity, of which he was a founding executive board member of his university's chapter. One of Nisim's most passionate projects was being a part of the Detroit Fellows Tutoring Project in 2019, where he tutored first grade students in Detroit Public Schools in reading proficiency. Having been involved in various youth conservative political groups throughout college, Nisim was inspired by Tikvah's mission and decided to join the "Jews and Political Philosophy" seminar. Nisim aspires to become an attorney in the future, practicing in the business and financial law realm while also continuing to be an active community member at his local synagogue, Keter Torah.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The startling rise in Antisemitism around the globe and especially in the United States over the past several years has led many to advocate for the adoption of the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance's definition of Antisemitism by governments, universities, corporations, and other institutions around the globe. The definition, which includes eleven examples of Antisemitism, has generated some dissent. Nisim's project, completed in conjunction with the Combat Anti-Semitism Movement, works to "put a face" to these examples of Antisemitism. By researching and compiling real instances of the examples listed, Nisim hopes to help the Combat Anti-Semitism Movement in their efforts to encourage the adoption of IHRA's definition of Antisemitism.



Nisim Nesimov

WAYNE STATE UNIVERSITY



07

Tziona Kamara

YESHIVA UNIVERSITY

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BIO

Tziona Kamara grew up in Passaic, New Jersey and studied at Sha'alvim for Women in Jerusalem for a gap year, before attending Stern College for Women at Yeshiva University, where she is studying Political Science. Tziona is active on campus as the president of the Dunner Political Science Society and president of the Sharsheret Club, a Jewish nonprofit that raises funds and awareness for women fighting breast cancer. She is also an editor of the *Clarion*, the YU political science journal, as well as a contributor to the YU student paper, *The Commentator*, and *Chronos*, the YU history journal. She enjoys dancing and is a member of the Stern Dance Club. Tziona is currently studying abroad at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem as a fellow on the Nachshon Project, where she is developing her skills as a Jewish leader and educator. Upon graduation, Tziona hopes to utilize her love of Judaism, writing, and giving by entering the Jewish nonprofit world.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Tziona worked with the development team at Tikvah to create a list of potential donor prospects in the Greater Los Angeles area. To do so, she used the DonorSearch platform to identify the donor history of individuals and looked into other areas of their communal involvement. A key aspect of the research was finding links in the interests of donor prospects and those of Tikvah, such as Zionism, conservatism, intellectually deep content, support for the free-market, and Jewish education.

Tziona Kamara

BIO

Yair Lichtman, a born and bred New Yorker, is in his second year of rabbinical school at Yeshiva University, where he is also pursuing graduate studies in Bible, Jewish Education, and Mental Health Counseling. He earned a bachelor's degree from Yeshiva College, where he studied Mathematics and Jewish Studies. Yair is an alumnus of rabbinical student fellowships at the 92nd Street Y, AIPAC, the Shalom Hartman Institute, and the UJA Federation. He has taught in several capacities, including at schools, synagogues, college campuses, and summer camps. Yair aspires to a career in Jewish Education, where he plans to integrate contemporary educational research and technology into his classroom, and to lead schools in training students for personal and professional success.

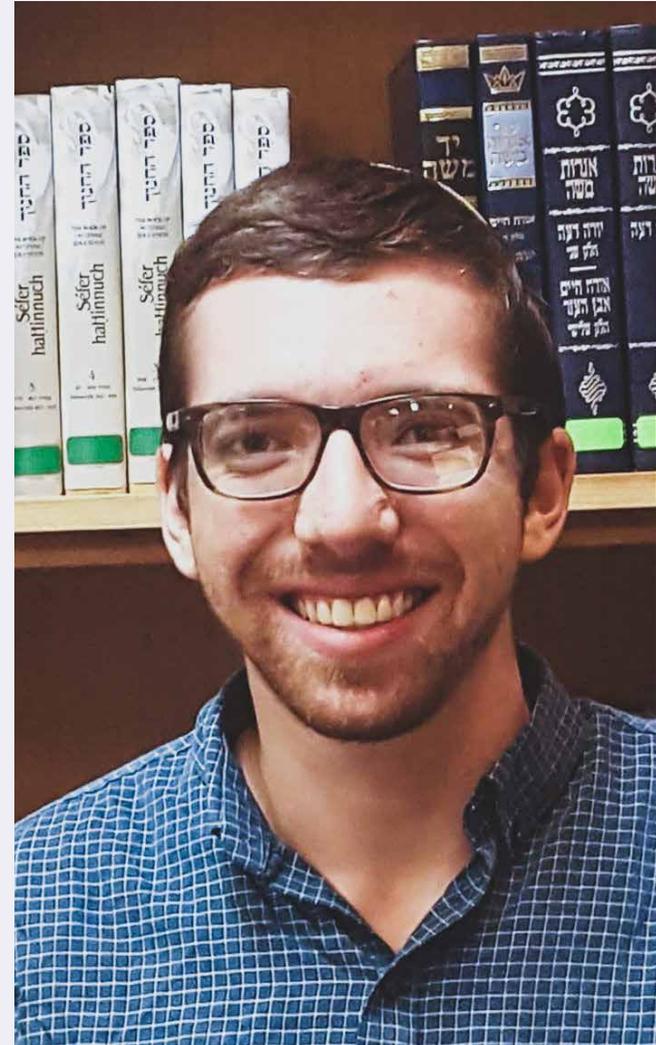
PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Yair's project is a Talmud curriculum, geared toward Orthodox high school students, which seeks to blend the best of traditional Yeshiva learning, literary study, and values education. His model lessons, on the topic of the Seven Noahide Laws, bring the Talmud and its commentaries to bear on questions of intellectual and practical import for the American Jewish community. Yair has also provided a framework which guided his curricular choices and situates his curriculum in the context of the American Modern Orthodox high school.

Yair Lichtman

Yair Lichtman

YESHIVA UNIVERSITY



Matthew Samilow

CORNELL UNIVERSITY

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BIO

Matthew Samilow is a sophomore at Cornell University, majoring in Industrial Labor Relations. Matthew grew up in South Florida and attended the Weinbaum Yeshiva High School. At Cornell, Matthew serves on the boards of the Center for Jewish Living and Cornellians for Israel, is chairman of philanthropy for the Cornell Republicans, and is an active member of the Cornell Political Union. Prior to starting at Cornell, he spent a year studying at Yeshivat Eretz HaTzvi in Jerusalem and participated in Tikvah's Overseas Institute. Last summer, Matthew was one of Tikvah's "Jewish Ideas" interns, where he developed a curriculum for college students on religious liberty and its relevance to American Jews. After graduation, Matthew plans to attend law school.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Inspired by the recent decisions of some states to offer academic classes on the Bible in public schools, Matthew is researching the history and role of the Bible in American public education. For much of American history, the Bible held an outsized role in education and was viewed as an indispensable tool for instilling morality and fostering republican virtues. It is a work fundamental to understanding the American story, and yet its instruction has all but vanished from public schools. In his project, Matthew will examine the heated public debates over the role of religion in education, discuss relevant legislation and judicial decisions, and consider whether there is a path to widespread, constitutionally compliant Bible education. Finally, Matthew will explore how this issue relates to Jewish communities and whether it is something they should consider supporting.

Matthew Samilow

BIO

Hadar Ahiad Hazony, born in Samaria, raised in Jerusalem, completed his B. Ed. in Bible and History at Herzog College in Gush Etzion (Judea). Currently, he is pursuing a Master's degree at Tel Aviv University in the Department of Political Science, majoring in Political Theory. His research focuses on a Theory of Power, Hierarchy, Patriarchy, and Feminism. At Tel Aviv, Hadar is a member of the Editorial Board of *Hamerhav Hatizburi [The Public Sphere]*, the leading Hebrew language Political Science journal. Hadar is an alum of various Tikvah programs, in Israel and in the U.S., and a passionate supporter of Tikvah's vision as well as a fan of many of Tikvah's staff. After graduation in 2021, Hadar plans to attend Graduate School in the U.S. or England.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Hadar Ahiad Hazony's research explores modern conceptions of power, and how they shape modern man's understanding of the role that social hierarchies play in human society. Specifically, Hadar is focusing on three thinkers: (1) Alexis de Tocqueville's theories of the egalitarian nature of democratic man and how they inform modern liberal and conservative conceptions of equality; (2) Karl Marx's ideas on the oppressive nature of hierarchies, and their expression in modern progressive circles today; (3) Friedrich Nietzsche's description of the Will to Power, and the post-modern ideas that derive their relativism from this depiction. Hadar's research culminates in a theoretical framework that hopes to amalgamate these three positions, capitalizing on their relative strengths, and critiquing their weaknesses.

Hadar Ahiad Hazony

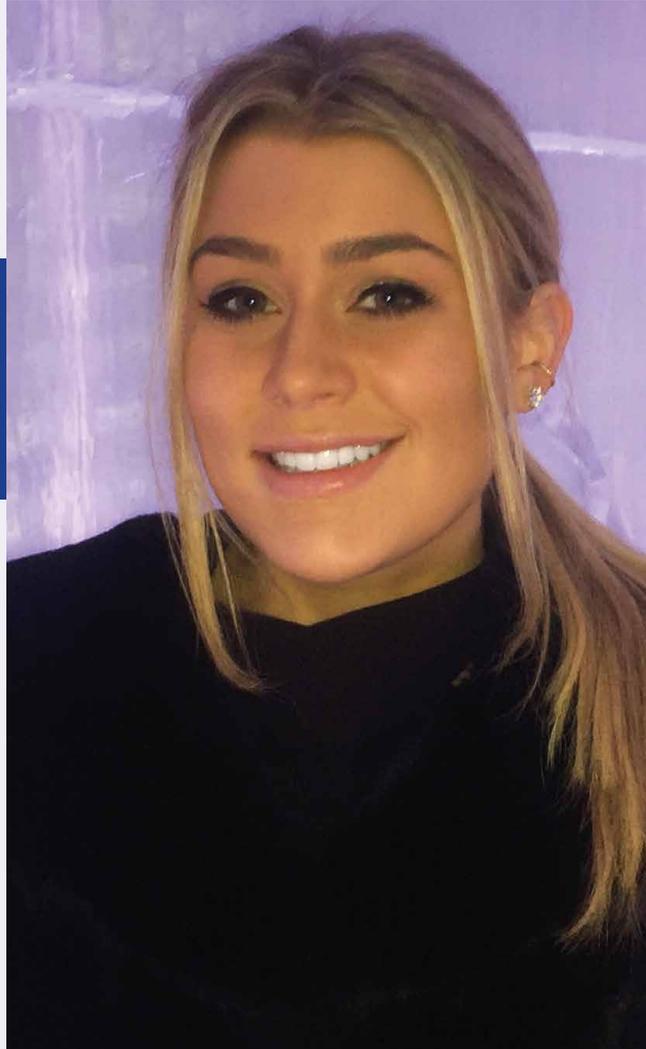
Hadar Ahiad Hazony

TEL-AVIV UNIVERSITY



Esther Walker

KING'S COLLEGE



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BIO

Esther Walker from London, England, has just completed her Bachelor of Arts in History at King's College London. Esther wrote her final year dissertation on anti-Semitism in the Cold War era, with a particular focus on the tragic story of the 'Refuseniks.' This dissertation perfectly tied together two of Esther's passions – history and Zionism. At King's, Esther played an active role on the King's Israel Society committee as the Head of Public Relations. Esther has furthered her passion of Israel activism through her position as CAMERA on Campus fellow at King's. After an exciting summer participating in the Tikvah Summer Fellowship in New York City, Esther plans on pursuing a Master's degree in Tel Aviv.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Esther's project is based on an analysis of the integration of Olim from the Former Soviet Union (FSU) into Israeli society. Esther has been working under the guidance of David Weinberg, the Vice President of the Jerusalem Institute for Strategy and Security. Based on information gathered from extensive reading alongside conversations with leading academics and politicians, Esther has written an article on Russian Olim and collated her research into a lengthier and more detailed paper to accompany the article. In particular, Esther has looked at political integration, she has examined the significance of the FSU vote in Israeli politics and whether it remains as substantial now as it has in the past.

Esther Walker

TikvahFund.org

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