



# TIKVAH UNIVERSITY 5778

## ALUMNI MEMBERSHIP CATALOG

Fall 2017 | Winter 2018 | Spring 2018 | Summer 2018





## From the Executive Director:

Dear Tikvah Graduates:

The Tikvah Fund believes that ideas matter: from the Hebrew Bible to modern Jewish literature, from Zionist history to American statesmanship, from the study of great leaders to the moral debates that swirl around us. The flourishing of the Jewish people depends on educated leaders, and serious education never ends.



As a New Year (5778) begins, we are thrilled to offer an even broader array of opportunities to think, learn, and debate at the Tikvah Center—including:

- **Evening lectures, debates, and live Podcasts**—on subjects as varied as Russia and the Middle East, reforming American education, Evangelicals and Israel, and the Jewish minds of Leo Strauss, Norman Podhoretz, and Hannah Arendt.
- **Mini-Courses throughout the year**—including Michael Doran on Israel and the American Presidents, Ruth Wisse on the moral wisdom of Jewish literature, and Rabbi Meir Soloveichik on the political ideas of the Haggadah.
- **One-week summer institutes**—including Jon Levenson on the book of Genesis, Martin Kramer on the Israeli Declaration of Independence, Rabbi Meir Soloveichik on Pirkei Avot, and Elliott Abrams on American foreign policy.

This year, we want to open our doors—and our seminar room—to **all of our alumni**. We want you to help build the Tikvah community of ideas. **All you need to do is join—become a Tikvah alumni member today!**

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Eric Cohen". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Eric Cohen

## Why Join the Tikvah Fund?

We are very pleased to offer you, as graduates of our Tikvah university student and young professional programs, year-round access to the intellectual life and community of the Tikvah Center. To take advantage of this opportunity, we invite you to become members.

### What does membership mean? Members are eligible to:

- ✓ Attend all members-only **programming** at the Tikvah Center—including lectures and events, evening courses and summer institutes, seminars and live Podcasts.
- ✓ Bring **guests** to each event at Tikvah.
- ✓ Get exclusive access to live **web streams** of events.
- ✓ Receive invitations to occasional **VIP dinners and private conversations** with speakers.
- ✓ Receive a complimentary one-year digital subscription to the **Jewish Review of Books** and access to all **Mosaic e-books**.
- ✓ Receive special access to job, internship, and learning opportunities open to Tikvah members only.

### What does it cost?

Those who have done an eligible university student and young professional program with Tikvah can join at the young alumni rate of \$50. Membership is good until October 1, 2018.

### How do I sign up?

Simply go to <https://tikvahfund.org/alumnimembers> and provide the requested information—it only takes a few minutes! After you sign up, you will be able to log in to [tikvahfund.org](https://tikvahfund.org) and access your membership benefits.

# Tikvah Speaker Series

## Critical Conversations with Jewish Leaders in the Public Square

This fall, the Tikvah Center will host a series of fascinating events with some of the world's most interesting Jewish minds in politics, education, and literature. Members will be invited to special members-only events and to join the speakers for exclusive receptions.



### **U.S.-Russia Relations: What Went Wrong?**

October 25, 2017 | The Tikvah Center | 6:30 PM

A conversation with **Vance Serchuk**, executive director of the KKR Global Institute and adjunct senior fellow at the Center for a New American Security.



### **Alternatives to Public Education**

October 30, 2017 | The Tikvah Center | 6:30 PM

A conversation with **Eva Moskowitz**, the country's most successful charter school operator and author of *The Education of Eva Moskowitz*.



### **The Ruined House: A Book Release Event**

November 8, 2017 | The Tikvah Center | 6:30 PM

A conversation with Israeli novelist **Ruby Namdar**, as we celebrate the English language release of his novel, *The Ruined House*, winner of the Sapir Prize, Israel's highest literary award.

# The Tikvah Podcast Live

Join us for Dinner and Attend a Recording of our "Great Jewish Essays & Ideas" Podcast

Members and their guests can join us this fall for conversations on great essays that shed light on the modern Jewish condition. Events in New York and on select campuses!



## Public Intellectuals and the Problem of Evil: Eichmann in Jerusalem

October 26, 2017 | The Tikvah Center | 6:30 PM

Tikvah Senior Scholar **Ruth Wisse** will discuss Norman Podhoretz's 1963 Commentary essay, "Hannah Arendt on Eichmann: A Study in the Perversity of Brilliance."



## Are Conservatives the True Postmoderns?

November 16, 2017 | University of Chicago | 6:30 PM

**Daniel Mark**, professor of Political Science at Villanova University and chairman of the U. S. Commission on International Religious Freedom, will discuss Peter Lawler's 2013 essay "Conservative Postmodernism, Postmodern Conservatism."



## Sibling Rivalry: The Danger and Opportunity of Jewish-Christian Dialogue

November 29, 2017 | Harvard University | 7:45 PM

**Jon D. Levenson**, Albert A. List Professor of Jewish Studies at Harvard University, will discuss how Jews and Christians can learn from one another's faith and work together for the public good without diluting core theological commitments.



## The Jewish Problem and the Human Problem: The Legacy of Leo Strauss

December 4, 2017 | Princeton University | 4:30 PM

**Leora Batnitzky**, chair of the Department of Religion at Princeton University, will illuminate the lasting impact of Leo Strauss' writing on modern Jewish thought.



## Evolving Christian Attitudes to the State of Israel

December 7, 2017 | The Tikvah Center | 6:30 PM

**Robert Nicholson**, Executive Director of the Philos Project, revisits the landscape of American Christian denominations and their attitudes to the Jewish State.



## Israel and the American Presidents

**Michael Doran**

The Tikvah Center | New York City | 6:30 PM

From Truman to Trump, American presidents have played a major role in shaping the history of modern Israel. In a series of new lectures, Middle East expert Michael Doran will examine the unfolding of the U.S.-Israel relationship over the past 70 years through the distinctive lens of the Oval Office. This 10-part program will provide a guided intellectual tour of the most dramatic episodes, the key policy battles, and the crucial moments of decision that every president has faced since 1948—from the Israeli Declaration of Independence to the Suez Crisis, from the Six-Day War to the Yom Kippur War, from the rise of the Palestinian Liberation movement to the liberation of Soviet Jewry, from Oslo to the Intifadas, from the wars in Iraq to the threat of nuclear Iran.

**Monday, November 13, 2017:** Truman

**Monday, December 18, 2017:** Eisenhower

**Monday, January 8, 2018:** Kennedy & Johnson

**Monday, February 12, 2018:** Nixon & Ford

**Tuesday, March 13, 2018:** Carter

**Monday, April 16, 2018:** Reagan

**Monday, May 14, 2018:** G.H.W. Bush & Clinton

**Monday, June 11, 2018:** G.W. Bush

**Monday, July 9, 2018:** Obama

**Monday, August 6, 2018:** Trump

Michael Doran is a Senior Fellow at the Hudson Institute in Washington, DC. He received his PhD in Near Eastern Studies from Princeton University, and held numerous high-level positions in the administration of George W. Bush. He appears frequently on television, and has published extensively in *Mosaic*, *Foreign Affairs*, *The American Interest*, *Commentary*, *The Wall Street Journal*, *The Washington Post*, and *The New York Times*. His most recent book is *Ike's Gamble: America's Rise to Dominance in the Middle East*.

Sponsored by Bryna and Joshua Landes



Fiddler in Jerusalem 2, courtesy of Leonid Afremov



## The Wisdom of Jewish Literature

### Ruth Wisse in conversation with Eric Cohen

The Tikvah Center | New York City | 6:30 PM

The modern Jewish experience—from exile to sovereignty, from weakness to power, from tragedy to comedy, from America to Israel, from youth to adulthood—is so complex and so profound that only great literature can truly make sense of it. In a new series of conversations, former Harvard professor Ruth Wisse will explore some of the classic short stories of the modern Jewish canon. Each session will focus on a specific story, and how it illuminates some of the great themes and dilemmas of being Jewish in the modern age.

#### Session I: The Jew Comes of Age

**Tuesday, January 9, 2018:** Sholem Aleichem, "Eternal Life"

**Tuesday, January 23, 2018:** Franz Kafka, "Report to an Academy"

**Tuesday, February 6, 2018:** Isaac Babel: "Story of my Dovecot" & "First Love"

**Tuesday, February 20, 2018:** Isaac Bashevis Singer, "Gimpel the Fool"

#### Session II: Jews and Power

**Tuesday, April 17, 2018:** Mendele Mocher Sforim, "Shem and Japheth on the Train"

**Tuesday, May 1, 2018:** I. L. Peretz, "Bontshe Svayg" & "The Shabbes Goy"

**Tuesday, May 15, 2018:** Lamed Shapiro, "The Cross"

**Tuesday, May 29, 2018:** Isaac Babel, "My First Goose"

**Tuesday, June 12, 2018:** Haim Hazaz, "Hadrasha"

Preeminent teacher and scholar Ruth Wisse recently retired from her position as Martin Peretz Professor of Yiddish Literature and Professor of Comparative Literature at Harvard University, and is currently the Distinguished Senior Fellow at the Tikvah Fund. Her many books include *The Modern Jewish Canon: A Journey Through Literature and Culture*, *Jews and Power*, and *No Joke: Making Jewish Humor*.



## The Haggadah: A Political Classic

### Rabbi Meir Soloveichik

The Tikvah Center | New York City | 6:30 PM

The most widely read, beloved, and perplexing book of the Jewish tradition is the Passover Haggadah. It is also a serious work of Jewish political philosophy. In this major new lecture series, Rabbi Meir Soloveichik will explore the civic and political teachings of the Haggadah. He will show how every prayer, passage, symbol, and song aims to describe and preserve the Jewish understanding of the good society, and why the festival of freedom is so central to understanding what Judaism stands for in every generation.

#### Monday, March 5, 2018

Session I: The DNA of the Haggadah: Politics and Theology

Session II: Children and Continuity

#### Monday, March 12, 2018

Session I: The Politics of the Paschal Lamb

Session II: Rabbi Akiva's Blessing: Destruction, Freedom, and Endurance

#### Monday, March 19, 2018

Session I: Law and Liberty

Session II: The Meaning of Matzah: Positive Freedom and Negative Freedom

#### Monday, March 26, 2018

Session I: The Politics of Time

Session II: Athens and Jerusalem

Rabbi Dr. Meir Y. Soloveichik is director of the Zahava and Moshael Straus Center for Torah and Western Thought at Yeshiva University and the rabbi of Congregation Shearith Israel, the oldest Jewish congregation in the United States. His essays have appeared in *The Wall Street Journal*, *Commentary*, *First Things*, *Azure*, *Tradition*, and *The Torah U-Madda Journal*.



## Declaring Israel's Independence

**Martin Kramer**

**July 9-13, 2018**

The Tikvah Center | New York City | Morning & Afternoon Lectures

On this 70th anniversary of Israel's birth, its creation seems all the more improbable. Only 600,000 Jews established a state in the face of armed Arab invasion and an international embargo. Yet in the midst of the uncertainties and pressures of battle, Israel's leaders had the clarity of mind to craft a declaration of independence that expressed religious and political arguments—old and new—for the reestablishment of the Jewish State in the birthplace of the Jewish people. The declaration of independence that David Ben-Gurion read on May 14, 1948 resonates to this day as the constituting document of the State of Israel.

In this weeklong lecture course, distinguished historian Martin Kramer will revisit the political debates of May 1948, leading to the decision to declare independence; the successive drafts of the declaration and the ideas that inspired them; the statesmanship necessary to assemble the coalition of Zionists, Socialists, and religious Jewish patriots that stood behind the document; the historic events of the day itself; and the subsequent seventy years of reinterpretation in response to changing Israeli realities. In interrogating the declaration, we will revisit the justifications for the existence of a Jewish state, the tension between religious and secular visions of Israel's purpose, and the state's relations with the Arabs and the world.

Following a twenty-five year career teaching at Tel-Aviv University, where he directed the Moshe Dayan Center for Middle eastern and African Studies, Martin Kramer was the founding president of Shalem College in Jerusalem, Israel's first liberal arts college, where he continues to teach the modern history of the Middle East. Professor Kramer is also the Koret visiting fellow at The Washington Institute for Near East Policy. The author of many essays and articles in *Commentary*, *Mosaic*, *The Wall Street Journal*, *Foreign Affairs*, and elsewhere, Professor Kramer is the author of ten books, most recently *The War on Error: Israel, Islam, and the Middle East*.



## God and Man in the Book of Genesis

**Jon D. Levenson**

**July 16-20, 2018**

The Tikvah Center | New York City | Morning & Afternoon Lectures

**G**enesis is a book about beginnings: the beginnings of the created order, the beginning of human life, the human family, and human culture, and the beginning of the people of Israel from the family of Abraham. And Genesis is also the beginning of the Hebrew Bible, the foundation stone of Jewish history and theology, and, in time, the beginning of the Christian Bible as well. No single text has exercised a greater influence over the moral imagination of the West as has the Book of Genesis.

This summer, the Tikvah Fund is pleased to offer a weeklong lecture course on the ideas of Genesis as they emerge from a close reading of its dramatic stories. Through the primeval history of mankind, the story of Abraham, God's covenant with him, the rivalries that pit his descendants against one another as that covenant is transmitted from one generation to the next, and the story of his great-grandson Joseph, we shall consider the character of the remarkable family that grows into the nation of Israel, and the purpose that God gives it to sustain holiness in the world. We shall study in detail the opening creation story, the call and mission of Abraham, the Aqedah, or Binding of Isaac, the rivalry of Jacob and Esau and the often-misunderstood dynamics of chosenness, the sexual violation of Dinah, and the theological and psychological subtleties of the story of Joseph, perhaps the most complex plot in the Hebrew Bible and an extraordinary gem of biblical prose narrative.

Leading our study is Professor Jon D. Levenson, the Albert A. List Professor of Jewish Studies at the Harvard Divinity School. Professor Levenson's many books include *Resurrection and the Restoration of Israel: The Ultimate Victory of the God of Life*, which won the National Jewish Book Award, as well as *Inheriting Abraham: The Legacy of the Patriarch in Judaism, Christianity, and Islam*, and, most recently, *The Love of God: Divine Gift, Human Gratitude, and Mutual Faithfulness in Judaism*, the latter two published jointly by the Tikvah Fund and Princeton University Press in The Library of Jewish Ideas.



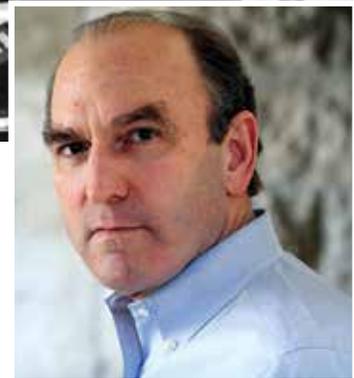
## Pirkei Avot: The Misunderstood Masterpiece

**Rabbi Meir Soloveichik July 23-27, 2018**

The Tikvah Center | New York City | Morning & Afternoon Lectures

The book of Avot is simultaneously the most beloved, and most unappreciated, text in the rabbinic canon. Studied every summer on Shabbat afternoon, its maxims rise readily to the lips of the literate Jew; yet these very same sayings are treated as teachings uttered in a vacuum, unrelated to the unique lives of the sages that serve as their source. Even the common translation of the tractate- "Ethics of the Fathers" - reveals the misconception that the book's focus is exclusively moral; in fact, Avot's teachings also delve deeply into human nature and Jewish chosenness, the balance between obligation and creativity, the purpose of Torah study, and God's relationship with the world. A true understanding of the maxims in Avot begins with learning the Talmudic literature about each of the sages cited, and thereby understand how each teaching is actually a window into the unique worldview, and history, of each Rabbi. Only then can Avot be understood as an intellectual history of Jewish minds that were often in debate, and who offered solutions to challenges in a pagan post-Temple world that was in many ways not unlike our own.

This week-long lecture series will be led by Rabbi Dr. Meir Y. Soloveichik, director of the Zahava and Moshael Straus Center for Torah and Western Thought at Yeshiva University and the rabbi of Congregation Shearith Israel, the oldest Jewish congregation in the United States. His essays have appeared in *The Wall Street Journal*, *Commentary*, *First Things*, *Azure*, *Tradition*, and the *Torah U-Madda Journal*. Rabbi Soloveichik's first-ever online course, on "Jewish Ideas and the American Founders," can be found at [www.tikvahfund.org](http://www.tikvahfund.org).



## Security and Democracy in American Statecraft

**Elliott Abrams**

**July 30-August 3, 2018**

The Tikvah Center | New York City | Morning & Afternoon Lectures

**H**ow should strategists of American foreign policy think about the morality and legitimacy of other nations' political systems? Does it matter to the American national interest whether human rights are protected within the borders of our allies and adversaries? How should decision-makers working in national security and international affairs weigh the tradeoffs between our devotion to moral ideals, and the urgent necessities to protect the United States and American interests? Under what conditions should we turn a blind eye to human rights violations, and under what conditions must we boldly defend them?

This summer, the Tikvah Fund invites you to join former Assistant Secretary of State for Human Rights and Deputy National Security Advisor Elliott Abrams as he shares his four decades of experience serving at the highest levels of American government. We will probe American approaches to power from the Spanish-American War to World War II, from the Cold War to the War on Terror, and beyond. We will observe the tactical and strategic debates between Presidents Nixon and Ford and Senator Henry "Scoop" Jackson, the statesmanship of intellectuals and practitioners like Jeane Kirkpatrick, Henry Kissinger, and Daniel Patrick Moynihan. We will examine how the abiding tensions and rival approaches to American foreign policy shed light on the current moment, evaluating the achievements and legacies of the Clinton, Bush, and Obama administrations, giving students the political and intellectual resources to think hard about the Trump administration's foreign policy.



## Your Tikvah. Your Learning Community.

“Ruth Wisse! What can I say? I love her. The conversations we had with her outside of lecture time were wonderful. I always felt calmer around her, like she had things under control, ideas and all. That was something I loved about Tikvah, being able to throw ideas back and forth with your teachers.”

—Julia Mearsheimer, Summer Fellowship 2017  
University of Chicago, 2019

“After being here, I just can’t help having this love for the Jewish religion. I have come to realize that taking Judaism seriously does not require turning one’s back on society. On the contrary, it immerses individuals in a rich particularism which they can then bring to society.”

—Elliot Kaufman, Summer Fellowship 2016  
Stanford University, 2018

“[To] be able to affiliate with a thoughtful, engaged, and intelligent organization that aligns with my mission is fulfilling and gives me hope!”

—Annie Watman, Summer Institutes 2017  
New York University, 2011; Grassroots Director at Orthodox Union Advocacy Center

“I feel more connected with Israel than I ever have been.”

—Isaac Inkeles, Summer Fellowship 2015  
Harvard University, 2016; Editorial Assistant at Mosaic



***JOIN NOW!***

**For more information and to  
register, visit**

[www.tikvahfund.org/alumnimembers](http://www.tikvahfund.org/alumnimembers)

קרן תקווה  
TIKVAH