The Tikvah Summer Fellowship aims to inspire and empower young men and women to lead lives of Jewish purpose and leadership. In their eight weeks of residence with the Tikvah Fund, students learn from great professors, public figures, and religious leaders who straddle the worlds of academic research and active engagement in Jewish affairs. They also undertake an independent research project or internship, suited to their own interests and exposing them to practical challenges faced by Jewish leaders today. These might include: how to strengthen and sustain Jewish schools, how to secure religious freedom, how to bolster the strategic relationship between America and Israel, and how to engage as Jews in some of the great cultural battles of our age.

**THE TIKVAH SUMMER FELLOWSHIP 2019 RESEARCH CONFERENCE**

The Tikvah Summer Fellowship aims to inspire and empower young men and women to lead lives of Jewish purpose and leadership. In their eight weeks of residence with the Tikvah Fund, students learn from great professors, public figures, and religious leaders who straddle the worlds of academic research and active engagement in Jewish affairs. They also undertake an independent research project or internship, suited to their own interests and exposing them to practical challenges faced by Jewish leaders today. These might include: how to strengthen and sustain Jewish schools, how to secure religious freedom, how to bolster the strategic relationship between America and Israel, and how to engage as Jews in some of the great cultural battles of our age.

**MONDAY AUGUST 5TH**

Natalie Ecanow - Zionism in the Christian Hispanic Community .......................2
Talia Katz – Strategic Options to Strengthen the US-Israel Relationship ...........3
Jay Mens – Geopolitics of the Middle East ..................................................4
Tamara Berens – Why and How to Combat BDS ..........................................5
Gregory Usvitsky – A Program of Excellence for Russian-Jewish Students ....6

**TUESDAY AUGUST 6TH**

Pamela Brenner - Shomer’s Thought and Legacy ...........................................7
Daniel Gutkind – Committed Jews and American Citizenship ......................8
Mendel Jacobson – Chabad and American Citizenship .................................9
Daniel Kane – The Strategy for Red State Judaism ......................................10
Joshua Moriarty – Evolving Ideas of the Public Interest in Private Schools ......11

**WEDNESDAY AUGUST 7TH**

Harry Halem - Maimonides on Prophecy and Law ......................................12
Isaac Selter – Tanakh Education: Present and Future ..................................13
Dovid Schwartz – Classical Education at an Orthodox High School ............14
Full Week’s Schedule ...................................................................................15
BIO:
Natalie Ecanow, a native of Highland Park, Illinois, is a rising junior at Duke University, where she studies political science with minors in Middle Eastern studies and religion. At Duke, Natalie serves as the Campus Liaison for DIPAC, Duke University’s AIPAC cadre, managing the group’s relationship with NC 1st District congressman, Congressman Butterfield, and mobilizing students in support of legislation that strengthens the US-Israel relationship. She is a founding member of Duke’s chapter of NeW, an organization catered to politically conservative women. Additionally, Natalie performs with and serves on the marketing team for Devils En Pointe, Duke’s student-run ballet company.

PROJECT:
Natalie’s project is focused on Zionism in the Christian Hispanic community. Based on a quantitative survey conducted by the Philos Project entitled “Hispanic Views on Israel,” Natalie interviewed leaders in the fields of media, religion, and otherwise in order to dig beyond the initial empirical data. To supplement the conversations, Natalie read Samuel Goldman’s God’s Country: Christian Zionism in America, Gerald McDermott’s The New Christian Zionism: Fresh Perspectives on Israel and the Land, and a variety of related articles. Natalie plans on creating a portfolio of the interview questions with a summary of the responses, as well as a report analyzing key findings from her interviews and further reading.
BIO:
Talia Katz was born in Atlanta, Georgia to a father from Israel and a mother from Brooklyn. She recently graduated the University of Michigan with a degree in public policy and international studies. While at the University of Michigan, Talia was a member of the American Enterprise Institute Executive Council and WeListen, a grassroots organization which aims to bridge the political divide by facilitating respectful political discussions. While living in Washington, D.C. for eight months last year, Talia interned at AIPAC, Foundation for Defense of Democracies, and the State Department's Bureau of Near Eastern Affairs. This September, Talia will begin a two year fellowship program in D.C. with the Public Interest Fellowship.

PROJECT:
The Trump Administration has opened the door to a Golden Age of U.S. - Israel relations. The Administration has recognized Jerusalem and the Golan Heights, cancelled the JCPOA, and strongly supported Israel in international organizations such as the United Nations. Senator Tom Cotton has recognized that the Trump Administration has presented a window of opportunity to show stronger political solidarity with Israel before a new administration takes over and changes course. Talia therefore spent the past few weeks investigating what the next step should be in strengthening the U.S. — Israel relationship. Talia consulted various commentators, lawyers, policy analysts, and diplomats to create a policy memo for Senator Cotton's office outlining some policy options his team should consider.
BIO:
Jay Mens earned his B.A. in Politics and International Relations at Gonville and Caius College, Cambridge, where he was elected a senior scholar. He is the founding director of the Cambridge Middle East and North Africa Forum (MENAF), a think-tank focused on the politics of the MENA region. Next year, he will study for an M.Phil. in World History at Jesus College, Cambridge, and will research early modern diplomatic history. An erstwhile Air Force brat, Jay speaks eight languages fluently and aspires in the future to contribute to American foreign policy.

PROJECT:
Jay has studied the diplomatic and strategic history of the Middle East over the past millennium to prepare strategic policy recommendations for the United States. In particular, he has examined the Middle East as a crossroads between East and West, from the 8th century through the present. Jay’s analysis demonstrates that Middle East strategy should be an integral feature of any future American pivot to the Pacific or the Indo-Pacific.
BIO:
Tamara Berens hails from London and is in her final year at King’s College London, majoring in War Studies. At King’s, Tamara was the President of the Israel Society in 2017/18. She has interned at think-tanks in London and Washington, D.C. including the Institute for Economic Affairs, the Henry Jackson Society, and the American Enterprise Institute. Her writing has appeared in publications such as The Jerusalem Post, Mosaic, The National Interest, National Review Online, and The Weekly Standard. Tamara is looking forward to moving to New York City in the Summer of 2019, when she will begin as one of two inaugural Krauthammer Fellows at Mosaic magazine.

PROJECT:
Tamara is writing a major article on Israel Studies for Mosaic Magazine, under the guidance of Mosaic Magazine’s editor-in-chief Neal Kozodoy, and analyzing current trends in anti-BDS campaigns. Is the argument that BDS is anti-intellectual and anti-free speech a counterproductive one? Shouldn’t we make the case that BDS is bad simply because it is immoral and wrong? Tamara will outline these two positions—which she calls the ‘pluralism’ case vs the ‘moral’ case— and explain how they manifest in strategies to counter BDS. Tamara will also stake out her position; that where arguments for BDS are increasingly moralistic— and based on emotion and not fact—the ‘pluralistic’ case against BDS falls flat.
**BIO:**
Gregory Solomon Usvitsky, a Brooklyn native, is a sophomore at Macaulay Honors College Baruch where he studies Philosophy and International Business. At Baruch College, Gregory serves as president of the Pre-Law Society, a club which hosts weekly events to engage students with interested in the legal field. He is also the Director of Officers for the Baruch College Republicans, an organization that aims to promote civilized political discourse on campus. In the summer of 2018, Gregory interned at the Israeli Knesset for MK Sharren Haskel, composing public statements and addressing constituents on policy issues. That same summer he lived in and studied at a Jerusalem yeshiva. Inspired by Tikvah’s mission at the 2017-2018 Leadership Conferences and lecture series, he aims to make a contribution to the 5779 year Jewish success story. After graduation in May 2021, Gregory plans on studying in yeshiva and going to law school.

**PROJECT:**
Gregory has designed a curriculum and marketing plan for a year-long pilot course for Russian Jewish high school students in the NYC area, to be taught weekly at the Tikvah Center in Midtown. He has provided a more abstract sociological account of the Russian Jewish community as well as writing a detailed plan for the implementation of such a course.
BIO:
Pamela Brenner, a Manhattan native, is a Yiddish Studies major at Barnard College. She is a Research Fellow at the YIVO Institute for Jewish Research and serves as president of the Yiddish Club of Columbia/Barnard Hillel. Pamela is an outgoing board member and incoming conference chair of the Undergraduate Judaic Studies Conference, an editor and writer for Limda: The Undergraduate Jewish Studies Journal. She also writes for the Current, a journal of contemporary politics, culture, and Jewish affairs at Columbia University. After attending the Tikvah high school summer program in 2014, she joined the program as staff in both 2016 and 2017. She also participated in the 2017 one-week college fellowship program.

PROJECT:
Pamela’s project has been to collect materials on the forgotten Yiddish writer Shomer from a variety of archives collections around the world and to read extensively in this corpus of materials - novels, satirical journals, and more. She has aimed to get a sense of who he was as both a person and a writer. Through this research, Pamela has equipped herself to discuss Shomer’s life and legacy from an insider’s perspective. She will make use of these efforts in writing her senior thesis at Barnard this year. Pamela will also produce, over the course of the next few months, a “Lost and Found” article for the Jewish Review of Books. She will work with JRB editor-in-chief Abe Socher on this piece, which will introduce Shomer to the JRB audience and invite them to participate in this renewed debate over the author’s legacy.
BIO:
Daniel Gutkind is a third-year student at the University of Chicago studying Economics and Fundamentals. Daniel grew up in New York and attended Ramaz High School. Before coming to Chicago, he spent a year at Yeshivat Maale Gilboa in Israel and participated in Tikvah's Overseas Institute. When not in the library, he runs an Israeli film group at UChicago and works as an assistant teacher in a local public school. Daniel's favorite activity in New York is biking along the Hudson River.

PROJECT:
Daniel interviewed 52 students from pluralistic, centrist Modern Orthodox, and right wing Modern Orthodox schools. Daniel asked them a variety of questions intended to understand their American identities and sense of citizenship. Daniel has compiled a report on those interviews, which he will further develop by including his own conclusions from the survey, from speaking to teachers and adults in the community, and from his readings.
BIO:
Mendel Jacobson, a Brooklyn, New York native, is a junior at the Central Chabad Yeshiva where he studies Jewish law and mysticism and will be receiving rabbinic ordination in the fall of 2019. In addition, Mendel is also deeply interested in political philosophy and government. In 2016, Mendel was federally certified as a prison chaplain, and, since then, he has visited Jewish inmates in over thirty institutions across the United States. Upon graduation, Mendel plans on working for a year in a law-related field before progressing to law school. Mendel is passionate about utilizing Jewish and secular knowledge to help people both spiritually and physically.

PROJECT:
Mendel used his project to gain a greater understanding of citizenship and civic engagement through the lens of the Chabad educational system. His question was how one can be religious in a deep, often isolated, way and remain a committed citizen. Is citizenship for Jews necessarily opportunistic in nature: religious Jews can’t really care for their country in any real sense, beyond how it suits their needs? Mendel sought to understand how young Chabad students understood this quandary. To help him in his project, Mendel did extensive reading in the core texts of American political thought, studying Alexis De Toqueville’s Democracy in America and The Federalist Papers at the Hertog program in Washington D.C. These gave him a strong grounding in the micro and macro trends in America, especially in the areas of religion, citizenship, and equality. He has analyzed his research in light of these Western texts as well as the teachings of the Lubavitcher Rebbe.
BIO:
Daniel Kane is a recent graduate from the University of Texas at Austin where he studied Political Philosophy. Though Daniel graduated from UT Austin, he studied at St. John’s College and spent a year studying at Yeshiva Ohr Somayach. Currently, Daniel is working at the Texas Legislative Council doing legislative research and drafting legislation for Texas legislators. In the Fall of 2019, Daniel will begin working in Washington D.C. with the Public Interest Fellowship.

PROJECT:
For his project, Daniel reviewed 10 Red(ish) states in order to identify the states with the proper political, economic, and cultural environment needed to make a “Red-State Judaism” strategy feasible. After considering several key factors, including school choice initiatives, religious liberty laws, and the existing Jewish communities in these ten states, Daniel has narrowed the list down to four finalists: Missouri, Ohio, Texas, and Tennessee. Additionally, Daniel has been researching the role of Federalism and renewed state sovereignty could play in achieving a more permanent and stable political solution to the problem of rabid progressivism for conservative and religious communities, including the Jews.
BIO:
Joshua Moriarty is a junior at Harvard College majoring in comparative religion and minoring in math. At Harvard, Joshua is an active member of Hillel's Student Conservative Minyan and studies Jewish texts each week through Meor. He is an Undergraduate Fellow at the Edmond J. Safra Center for Ethics and Chair of Operations for the Harvard College Debating Union. Joshua spent last summer working as an editorial intern for Professor Walter Russell Mead’s Global View column in the Wall Street Journal and now works as a research intern for Professor Mead's upcoming book, The Arc of a Covenant: The United States, Israel, and the Fate of the Jewish People. He grew up in New York City and spent several summers in Tel Aviv with his family.

PROJECT:
Josh’s project has been to research the evolving status of private schools in the United States from America’s founding until the Supreme Court’s decision in Pierce v. Society of Sisters in 1925. The article that comes from this will focus on the legal status of private schools but will also discuss the broader debates over education that were shaping the legal landscape during that period. Josh’s article will be published as a chapter in a forthcoming book exploring the roots of recent controversies about public funding of Yeshiva Schools in NYC.
BIO:
Harry Halem was born in New York City and currently attends the University of St. Andrews in the United Kingdom, where he studies International Relations and Philosophy. He has also studied at Sciences Po (Paris), where he received the Certificate in Social Sciences and Humanities. He works as a research assistant for Dr. Seth Cropsey at the Hudson Institute’s Center for American Seapower. Passionate about philosophy, political theory, and Jewish civilization, Harry was drawn to the Tikvah fellowship because of intellectual diversity within a Jewish context. After graduation in June 2020, Harry hopes to spend time working or studying in Israel, following which he hopes to begin a political philosophy PhD program.

PROJECT:
Harry’s project has been a tutorial on the thought of Maimonides, guided by Professor Alexander Green of the University of Buffalo. His primary reading has been from the Guide for the Perplexed, supplemented by readings from the Mishneh Torah and the Commentary on the Mishnah. His research has been structured thematically. Harry has explored Maimonides’ understanding of the relationship between (1) Torah and Philosophy, (2) Ethics and Virtue, (3) Prophecy and the Nature of Law, and (4) Idolatry and History. This has given Harry a sound thematic overview of Maimonides’ philosophy, and a strong foundation to build upon for his future studies.
BIO:
Isaac Selter, born and raised in Wesley Hills, New York, is a senior at Yeshiva University where he studies Mathematics and Judaic Studies. For the past two years, Isaac was a member of the Memphis Torah Fellowship where he was involved in communal work in the Midwest, teaching Torah and creating programming for youth and adults. Now a rabbinical student at Rabbi Isaac Elchanan Theological Seminary, Isaac plans to pursue a career in Jewish education and communal work. This is Isaac's first foray into Tikvah programs but is already passionate about advancing Tikvah's mission of Jewish communal development. After graduation in May 2019, Isaac plans to continue his rabbinical studies in Israel, where he is likely to pursue a graduate degree in Biblical Studies.

PROJECT:
Isaac's project had two distinct parts. The first was an analysis of the current state of Tanakh education in yeshiva high schools in the United States. Isaac interviewed several Tanakh educators, exploring distinctions in curricula, methodologies, and strategies in teaching Tanakh. Isaac will produce a detailed report of his findings and include a discussion of his takeaways and possible next steps. Furthermore, Isaac will include a report based on specific schools/teachers about its/their approaches to Tanakh education. The second part of his project aimed to develop an extra-curricular Tanakh program that enables students to further cultivate excellence in reading Tanakh. Isaac has produced a formal "Project Proposal" with attached study guides that will assist in student learning for the program.
BIO:
Dovid Schwartz has just graduated Yeshiva College, where he studied Talmud and Philosophy. Next year, Dovid will begin Rabbinical School at RIETS and, through Tikvah, teach a Great Books course at Heichal Hatorah, an Orthodox high school in New Jersey. Upon completing his Rabbinical studies, Dovid hopes to go on to law school and ultimately aspires to the Rabbinate and legal academia.

PROJECT:
Dovid’s project was to prepare for his role as a lecturer at Heichal Hatorah in the Fall. He has read extensively in American History and in philosophy and literature of the late medieval and early modern periods. This reading has led to creation of a series of handouts (40-50), which Dovid will use as the basis of in-class lectures. He also had the opportunity to deliver a number of model lessons. At a late stage, he made contact with Professor RJ Snell and began a conversation about the Classical Education movement in certain Catholic circles. His hope is to develop a conference presentation for people working in this field.
# THE TIKVAH SUMMER FELLOWSHIP 2019 RESEARCH CONFERENCE

## Full Week’s Schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Monday August 5</th>
<th>Tuesday August 6</th>
<th>Wednesday August 7</th>
<th>Thursday August 8</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Breakfast</strong></td>
<td><strong>Breakfast</strong></td>
<td><strong>Breakfast</strong></td>
<td><strong>Breakfast</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8:00am - 9:00am</td>
<td>8:00am - 9:00am</td>
<td>8:00am - 9:00am</td>
<td>8:00am - 9:00am</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Fellows’ Presentations:</strong></td>
<td><strong>Fellows’ Presentations:</strong></td>
<td><strong>Fellows’ Presentations:</strong></td>
<td><strong>A Vision for the Jewish Future</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Natalie Ecanow 9:30am</td>
<td>Pammy Brenner 9:00am</td>
<td>Harry Halem 9:00am</td>
<td>Eric Cohen 10:30am – 12:30pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Talia Katz 10:45am</td>
<td>Daniel Gutkind 10:15am</td>
<td>Isaac Selter 10:15am</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jay Mens 12:00pm</td>
<td>Mendel Jacobson 11:30am</td>
<td>Dovid Schwartz 11:30am</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Lunch</strong></td>
<td><strong>Lunch</strong></td>
<td><strong>Lunch</strong></td>
<td><strong>Farewell Lunch</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12:30pm - 2:30pm</td>
<td>12:30pm - 2:30pm</td>
<td>12:30pm - 2:30pm</td>
<td>12:30pm - 2:30pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Fellows’ Presentations:</strong></td>
<td><strong>Fellows’ Presentations:</strong></td>
<td><strong>Discussion/Reflections:</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tamara Berens 2:30pm</td>
<td>Daniel Kane 2:30pm</td>
<td>Tikvah’s Strategy, Your Future</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gregory Usvitzky 3:45pm</td>
<td>Josh Moriarty 3:45pm</td>
<td>2:30pm – 4:30pm</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Dinner &amp; Movie</strong></td>
<td><strong>Special Guest Speaker</strong></td>
<td><strong>Dinner</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5:00pm - 7:00pm</td>
<td>R.J. Snell 5:00pm - 7:00pm</td>
<td>5:00pm - 7:00pm</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
טרון קוקו

TIKYAH