



FUCHSBERG
Jerusalem Center

Building Tomorrow's Leaders

FUCHSBERG
JERUSALEM CENTER
ANNUAL REPORT 2019

WELCOME TO THE FUCHSBERG JERUSALEM CENTER

Dear Friends,

This letter as well as the entirety of our 2019-2020 Annual Report was prepared prior to the challenging and painful impact of COVID-19 on all of our lives. We pray that you and yours are safe and mourn your losses with you. As fellow learners, leaders, and seekers, we remain committed to providing comfort and meaning to you and your community from the heart of Jerusalem. While our organization has undergone profound unexpected changes in recent months, we remain proud, inspired and motivated by the work of the past year. We hope that you are too.

In 2019 the Fuchsberg Jerusalem Center (FJC) deepened its commitment to Tomorrow's Leaders and to building the capacities of Jewish communities in North America, Israel, and around the world. With almost 50 years of experience and having grown dramatically as part of a strategic planning effort over the last three years, FJC is a dynamic destination point for the breadth of current and future Jewish leadership, including: high school and college students, Jewish community professionals, camp leaders, *shlichei tzibur* (prayer leaders) and rabbinical students, wherever they may be in their personal and professional journeys.

We cultivate future leaders whose knowledge and energy make Jewish communities stronger. Our

programs address gaps in Jewish leadership skill sets that ensure scalable, transformative impact as our graduates bring what they have learned to synagogues, camps, schools, college campuses, and friends and families back home.

From new musical collaborations with partners like Hadar's Rising Song Institute and the Schechter Institutes, to innovative new short-term intensives for prayer and camp leaders, to Conservative Yeshiva faculty-in-residencies in communities across North America, in 2019 we provided more once-in-a-lifetime opportunities for Jewish leaders to learn how to make a difference than ever before.

With every wish for your health and our collective wellbeing.



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Stephen Arnoff".

Dr. Stephen Arnoff
CEO



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Martin Werber".

Martin Werber
Chairperson

LEADERSHIP ON CAMPUS

In December 2019, 30 students from 23 colleges across the United States participated in the sixth semi-annual Ta'amu U'ru-College Break Program at the Conservative Yeshiva (CY). With a new summer track this year that included British students as well as North Americans, the CY now reaches 60 college students each year for intensive Jewish living and learning in the heart of Jerusalem. The program invigorates high-caliber participants, offering them tools for leadership and engagement on their campuses and beyond.



"THE TEACHERS AND STUDENTS AT THE CY HAVE TAUGHT ME HOW TO TEACH AND HOW TO LEAD."

—Isabel Bard, London, UK,
Keilim 2019 participant and
current Lishma Fellow.



"I LOOK FORWARD TO BRINGING MY REINVIGORATED LOVE FOR TORAH STUDY INTO MY OWN LIFE AND JEWISH COMMUNITIES THAT I AM A PART OF."

— Zach Harris, Brown University.
Participant in 2019 Ta'amu U'ru
Program



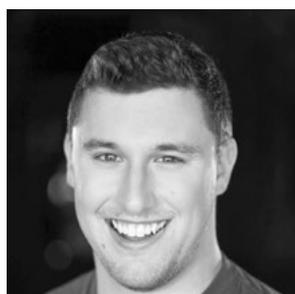
**20% OF 2018
TA'AMU GRADUATES
RETURNED TO THE
CONSERVATIVE
YESHIVA FOR
FURTHER STUDY.**

MASORTI ON CAMPUS



Taking it Forward: Leadership in Action at Columbia/Barnard Hillel

Ta'amu U'ru alumni partner with our faculty to create learning events on college campuses. In March, together with our alumni, FJC collaborated with Masorti on Campus and Marom for a Masorti *Shabbaton* at Columbia/Barnard Hillel. This was the largest *Shabbaton* of its kind yet, with a total of 100 participants (students, staff, and educators). Students represented 22 different campus communities, across 9 US states and 1 Canadian province. More than half of 2018 Ta'amu U'ru-College Break Program alumni enjoyed the *Shabbaton* and a large group of other CY alumni attended as well.



Deepening Impact Post-College: Meet Lishma Fellow David Kaplinsky

With an undergraduate degree in Acting from the University of Illinois, David, 29, has performed in numerous plays and musicals throughout Chicago while also serving as a B'nei Mitzvah tutor within various Chicago communities and teacher at Chicago Jewish Day School. David was drawn to the CY due to its egalitarian focus and intimate setting in the heart of Jerusalem. After studying in the Ta'amu U'ru-College Break Program in 2014 he was left wanting more. "I wanted to come here as it a place where egalitarian values are a given," he explains. "At the CY, there is no need to compromise on these values." He also loves the diversity of subjects on offer and opportunities outside of the classroom. "At the CY I can spend my afternoons learning Midrash, Martin Buber, and various Zionist perspectives. I also love learning Hebrew, living in Israel, and getting the opportunity to connect with the local community." With the skills gained as a Lishma Fellow, David hopes to enroll in rabbinical school "My text skills are growing to a whole new level and I'm gaining different and varied perspectives on Torah learning."

CY 2.0: EDUCATION ON THE GROUND



In Washington, D.C.

Bex Rosenblatt is FJC's Mid-Atlantic Faculty-in-Residence, teaching and providing staff training at congregations, Hillels, and learning institutions up and down the East Coast from her base in Washington D.C. Previously a faculty member at the Conservative Yeshiva and currently completing her doctorate in Hebrew Bible at Bar-Ilan University, Bex is committed to strengthening Jewish learning in communities and sparking innovative readings and interpretations of familiar Torah narratives: "It is fun to be teaching rabbis and educators who spend their lives teaching. Maybe I can bring alive a text such as the weekly Torah portion that they have been looking at for 30 years."



In London, UK

Rabbi Roni Tabick works for Masorti Judaism in the UK, developing Jewish learning projects, mostly in London. In that role, Roni teaches a regular Talmud shiur in Stoke Newington, runs a Beit Midrash for 17-year-olds, and organizes study programs with the Open Talmud Project, making text learning more accessible to all. He enjoys teaching introductory Talmud each morning as part of the CY Keilim Summer program. "Discovering the mixture of logic and narrative in the Talmud changed my life — it's a joy to be able to share that with other people."

BEX AND RONI ARE KEY TO DEVELOPING FJC'S INSTITUTIONAL PARTNERSHIPS IN NORTH AMERICA AND THE UK BY PROVIDING HIGH-QUALITY EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES, CREATING AWARENESS ABOUT THE WORK WE DO AT THE CY, AND CONNECTING WITH BOTH FUTURE STUDENTS AND ALUMNI OF OUR PROGRAMS.

ENERGIZING COMMUNITIES THROUGH MUSIC & SONG

FJC'S Rising Song *Shabbaton*

Hundreds joined us at FJC in July for our first-ever Rising Song *Shabbaton* with Joey Weisenberg of Hadar's Rising Song Institute. Over a full weekend our campus hosted prayer services at Moreshet Yisrael, learning and singing sessions, and festive meals. Leadership from across the Jewish world, including the Shalom Hartman Institute, the Rabbinical Assembly, Nava Tehila, European Academy for Jewish Liturgy (EAJL) as well as rabbis and lay leaders from scores of synagogues joined CY summer session students and local friends and community members for a rousing celebration of Jewish life and purpose. In many conversations with these stakeholders, the sentence we heard again and again was "this is exactly what we need."

Cultivating Prayer Leadership

We continue to create initiatives and partnerships to equip Rabbinical students and *shlichei tzibur* (prayer leaders) with the tools to build communities through music. This summer, The European Academy for Jewish Liturgy (EAJL) ritual track brought together prayer leaders seeking to enhance their skillsets. The CY and Moreshet Yisrael Synagogue also joined forces in 2019 to create a daily campus-wide *Shacharit* service, bringing new life to morning services and providing opportunities for students to learn the intricacies of running a daily *minyan*, from serving as *gabbaim* (synagogue officiants), to reading from the Torah and leading prayers, including musical *tefillot* and *Kabbalat Shabbat*. Each of these skills are vital as these young individuals take on leadership roles in their home communities.



An Emerging Musical-Spiritual Leader: CY Alumna Rebekka Goldsmith

CY Alumna Rebekka Goldsmith is a Resident at the Hadar's Rising Song Institute in Philadelphia, which trains emerging musical-spiritual leaders from across North America. "CY staff offered me the support I needed to begin leading prayer services and reading Torah, both firsts for me," she shares. "Now, five months into my music residency, I use the tools I developed at the CY daily. I am beyond grateful for the seven weeks I spent cultivating foundational Jewish learning and practices at CY."



JOEY WEISENBERG LEADING A SESSION AT THE FUCHSBERG JERUSALEM CENTER

TRAINING CAMP TRAINERS: NEW RAMAH PARTNERSHIP

In May, the CY joined with the National Ramah Commission to host 27 *Roshei Eidah* (division heads) from Ramah camps across North America. The Ramah Winer Leadership Training Program is part of our growing effort to inspire camp leadership and invigorate camp communities through advanced Jewish study. One participant, who went on to lead at Camp Ramah in New England described the impact that this 9-day program had on her and her peers. "The intensive at the Conservative Yeshiva completely re-energized us for the summer - everyone in this room is determined to bring that energy with their respective camps. We have so much new knowledge to share!"



STARTING YOUNG: JEWISH LEADERSHIP IN NORTH AMERICAN SCHOOLS



"MY ISRAEL EXPERIENCE GAVE ME A SENSE OF BELONGING TO SOMETHING GREATER THAN MYSELF. I ALWAYS THOUGHT THAT STATEMENTS LIKE THESE WERE CLICHÉ, UNTIL I TRULY KNEW WHAT IT FELT LIKE."

Fanya Hoffman, 2019 Participant in Neshama 12th Grade Program for Golda Och Academy students.

MOST OF OUR STUDENTS ARE SENIORS IN HIGH SCHOOL AND ARE AT ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT JUNCTIONS IN THEIR LIVES AS THEY MOVE FROM HIGH SCHOOL TO COLLEGE LIFE AND INDEPENDENT LIVING. OUR PROGRAMS PROVIDE A DEEPER UNDERSTANDING OF THE ISSUES FACING ISRAELI SOCIETY TODAY. A RICHER UNDERSTANDING AND MORE IN-DEPTH KNOWLEDGE WILL LEAD TO MORE MEANINGFUL ENGAGEMENT WITH ISRAEL AND JUDAISM, AND ENHANCED LEADERSHIP SKILLS IN THE FUTURE.

- David Keren, Vice President for Youth Programs and Strategic Partnerships

SUPPORT US

Thank you to our many generous donors and partners who assist us in providing opportunities for transformative Jewish engagement in the heart of Jerusalem. Our fundraising has more than doubled since 2017. To make a gift, please visit www.fuchsbergcenter.org or write to Stephen Arnoff at arnoff@uscj.org.

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