



2020/2021

MJE

manhattan jewish experience

Rabbi Mark Wildes
FOUNDER/DIRECTOR

Rabbi Pinny Rosenthal
SENIOR DIRECTOR

Dr. Adena Berkowitz
DIRECTOR OF FELLOWSHIP

**LAMM
FELLOWSHIP
PROGRAM**

MJE Lamm Fellowship, now in its 14th Year with 185 graduates to date, is a select cadre of MJE participants with little or no prior Jewish education who have expressed a desire to move their Jewish learning to the next level. The program seeks to educate and help produce knowledgeable and passionate leaders for the future. This year's class includes 20 men and women who meet each on MJE's virtual platforms weekly for three hours of Jewish study and meet for other virtual experiential learning through seminars and one-on-one learning. In 2016, the fellowship was dedicated in honor of Rabbi Dr. Norman Lamm Z"TL for his years of extraordinary scholarship and leadership on behalf of the Jewish people.

MJE Lamm Fellowship Bios 2020 – 2021 Year 1 Participants



Katie Barnett

Katie was introduced to MJE over four years ago and has never looked back. For the past three years, she has worked in Business Development for LiveRamp, a Data Connectivity Platform. Prior to that, Katie spent nine years in various roles at Nielsen, rising from Administration Assistant to Vice President of Client Solutions. A Miami native and graduate of the University of Miami, Katie moved to New York in June 2009. She lives on the Upper West Side with her husband, Avi, her baby girl, Raina and her dog, a lab/beagle mix, Hazel.



Brooke Bryant

Brooke is a nonprofit leader with expertise in fundraising, strategic planning and business management. Currently, she serves as Director of Development at Kaufman Music Center, holding prior positions at Hospital for Special Surgery, Cooper Union and iMentor. Also a classically-trained singer, she has performed with leading choirs and chamber music ensembles in NYC. She holds a Ph.D. in Historical Musicology from the CUNY Graduate Center and a BA from Wellesley College. Brooke and her husband live in Carroll Gardens, Brooklyn and are proud members of Congregation B'nai Avraham.



Tamar Dayan

Tamar Dayan was born and raised on Long Island, New York. She graduated from Hofstra University with a Masters in Taxation. Tamar currently works at a law firm as a CPA. Due to Covid she has temporarily relocated to the sunny state of Florida with her husband Joseph. She fell in love with MJE during the fall 2020 **Ski Retreat** and has been an MJE-er ever since. She is most looking forward to this summer when she can go on the MJE Israel trip. In her spare time, Tamar loves to hang out with her nephew Gavi and her dog Mimi.



Jonathan Eidelman

Jonathan is a software engineer originally from Montreal and is currently working at Amazon Web Services. He is an avid theatre and music enthusiast, and in the pre-pandemic days, he performed with all kinds of fun community theatre groups and choirs, including most notably, Montreal's Yiddish Theatre. More recently, he has been using quarantine as an opportunity to learn to play the piano and of course to learn Torah with MJE!



Artem Emple

Artem was born in Minsk, Belarus and immigrated to the United States with his family when he was 6 years old, settling in Gravesend, Brooklyn. Artem was not exposed to Judaism until medical school at the University at Buffalo. Upon moving back to New York City, he joined an intentional Jewish community and married his wife, Marissa. Professionally, he is a Critical Care Medicine doctor and Anesthesiologist working at Montefiore Medical Center. He is very excited to be a part of the MJE fellowship and take his yiddishkeit to the next level!



Daphne Harel

Daphne is from New York and studied at Queens College. It was in college that Daphne got very active in Jewish life and culture. Currently she is working as a school psychologist at a local middle school. In her spare time, Daphne enjoys being a part of the MJE Fellowship program as well as helping others.



Alan Hedrick

Alan is a Licensed Real Estate Agent in New York City, specializing in residential sales in Manhattan, Brooklyn and Queens. Originally from Denver, Colorado, he relocated to New York City in 2011 (after spending several years in Aspen). Fun fact, Alan speaks Spanish fluently! When he is not at work Alan enjoys traveling, hiking, sailing spending time outdoors. He has been a part of the MJE community for a few years. Alan has enjoyed learning with MJE and looks forward to continuing his spiritual growth.



Ilya Ivraghimov

Ilya has grown up in Queens, New York since he was 8 years old, after moving to the United States from Russia. He attended and graduated from Tuoro College, where he was able to study Biology and pursue his passion of acting, spending free time at Manhattan's Acting Studio. Ilya has since been featured in plays and short films! He is also passionate about cooking. Ilya joined MJE right before the pandemic hit and was inspired to join Fellowship. He is always excited to learn Torah and more about Jewish History. With MJE, Ilya has rediscovered himself!



Carly Korman

Carly grew up in Manalapan, New Jersey and attended the University of Massachusetts, Amherst where she graduated in 2017. She fell in love with Israel and Zionism on her birthright trip in 2015. She currently works for the Simon Wiesenthal Center as the National Campus Outreach Coordinator where she helps college students fight anti-Semitism and BDS. Her favorite pastimes are talking about Israeli politics, playing with dogs and going shopping.



Shoshana Levitt

Shoshana is a Silicon Valley native now residing in Murray Hill, working in Customer Success at a Neobank. She discovered MJE soon after graduating New York University and has since been an active community member. In her free time, Shoshana enjoys singing, playing piano, cooking and dabbling in graphic design.



Jaime Levy

Jaime is a young Jewish professional living and working in New York City. She is originally from Florida, where she graduated from University of Florida. Jaime is currently working for Fendi and has a passion for baking, art and loves snow. She is very happy to be a part of this year's MJE Fellowship Program.



Lawrence Petigrow

Lawrence was born and raised in New Jersey before obtaining a degree in Mechanical Engineering from the University of Michigan – Ann Arbor. Post-university he worked at a diesel engine manufacturer producing the 6.7 Liter Turbo Diesel engine for the Dodge Ram for 7 years in Indiana. He also worked in South Korea opening a new engine assembly plant as well as in China consulting on various manufacturing projects. He eventually moved back to NJ to pursue a career in automation, live closer to his family and be more connected to Judaism. MJE has played a vital role in fostering his Jewish education and spiritual journey.





Harlan Pittell

Harlan moved to the Upper West Side in the fall of 2019 and has been attending MJE ever since. Originally from Great Neck, Harlan has a strong connection to Judaism and his favorite MJE events include the Rosh Hashanah honey tasting, weekly lectures from Rabbi Wildes and Shabbat davening in Central Park. Amidst the backdrop of the pandemic, Harlan completed a Ph.D. in public health and he currently works at a technology company focused on cancer research.



Amy Savetsky

Amy is a Southern California native, who has always been inspired to take on challenges and explore new adventures. This led her to move to NYC in 2016, where she became more involved in the Jewish community. She is delighted to be a part of the Fellowship program and hopes to strengthen her knowledge of Judaism. Amy is a Managing Director at Group SJR and currently resides in LA, where she loves to hike and run along the beach, with her husband.



Diane Schrenzel

Diane Schrenzel is a 22-year-old recent Wellesley graduate, who is passionate about art history, the art market and Judaism. Born and raised in Paris, France, she is an e-commerce and office manager of an antiques store by day. Diane aspires to be as intellectually curious and stimulated as possible. She has found a second home within the warm MJE community and is excited to continue growing Jewishly at MJE.



Devra Seidel

Devra Aviva is a classical pianist, actor-singer, teacher and musical director currently living in New York City. She grew up in Cherry Hill, New Jersey and graduated Oberlin Conservatory of Music with a Bachelor's of Music. Devra then received her Masters of Music from the Manhattan School of Music. After, she spent six weeks studying in Israel at Neve Yerushalayim. She has worked as an accompanist and vocal coach, performed in festivals and was the co-creator and musical director for Kids Company Showcase. Devra's acted in various plays and in a short film she produced and wrote. She would like to express her gratitude to the entire MJE staff for the opportunity to participate in Fellowship this year and to take her learning to the next level.



Jacob Zarzecki

Jacob graduated from NYU in 2019 and currently works in finance. He resides in the East Village and has been part of the MJE community for a year and a half now. Jacob wanted to be a fellow to further connect with his heritage and build upon his foundation of Jewish practice. He is most interested in learning about the origins of modern day Halachot. Originally from Buffalo, Jacob enjoys following the Bills and Sabres.



Mary Elle Zeev

Mary Elle, hailing from Staten Island, always had a fascination with understanding the world behind mass production and understanding the human mindset behind consumer behavior. This led her to pursue a dual Bachelors in Marketing Management and Psychology. While she loves meeting new people, hanging out with friends, and attending social events, she always sought more meaning through spirituality. Mary wants to learn as much about Judaism as possible and to understand why we were placed in this world. She was very excited to join MJE and become part of the amazing Fellowship program.





Kaylee Zenin

Kaylee is a Ph.D. student studying bilingualism and second language acquisition at Rutgers University. Originally from South Florida, she moved to New York City in 2016, followed by a recent move to Teaneck, New Jersey after getting married in September 2016 to MJE fellow Serge Zenin. Her first MJE event was Shabbat Across America in March 2019, and she is so grateful for the positive impact MJE has made in her life.



Serge Zenin

Serge is a former medical malpractice litigation attorney. He is also the co-founder of Justpoint, an artificial intelligence startup that uses technology to redesign the medical malpractice industry. Currently, Serge is the Business Operations Manager at Morgan & Morgan, the largest personal injury law firm in the US. At Morgan & Morgan, Serge is responsible for innovation, strategy and bringing efficiency to the practice of law. Originally from Russia, Serge grew up in Brooklyn and now lives with his wife Kaylee in Teaneck, NJ.



The **MJE Senior Fellowship Leadership Program** consists of a select cadre of committed MJE participants who have a deep desire to move their Jewish learning to the next level. This program combines weekly learning, mitzvah workshop, Chesed projects, Shabbatonim and a special track within the Spring Retreat to produce the next leaders of MJE.

Senior Fellowship Bios 2020 - 2021



Suzanne Berkeley

Suzanne was born in Brooklyn, and after living in Florida, she returned to Manhattan. She is a licensed clinical social worker and earned a Master's in Social Work and her Bachelors in criminal justice and sociology. Prior to becoming an LCSW, she was a Probation and Parole Officer. She currently works with behavioral health disability claims while seeing therapy clients part time. Her dog regularly walks her in Central Park and is often judged by her cat. Her passions include animal rights and veganism. She has dabbled in improv, stand-up and sketch writing. MJE has afforded Suzanne the opportunity to reconnect and deepen her Torah knowledge.



Alex Elegudin

Alex has spent more than a decade working as an advocate and mentor in the disability community. In 2003, when Alex was in a car accident and sustained a C6 level spinal cord injury. Alex continued on to Hofstra University Law School and became a patent attorney. After working several years as attorney, he turned to being a full-time disability advocate and putting his skills to improving the quality of life for those with disabilities. He is very appreciative of this amazing opportunity to be a part of the MJE community.



Jordi Federman

Jordi is a Special Education teacher in the Bronx. She enjoys indoor cycling, cooking and hosting Shabbat dinners for friends and family. She's an avid reader, loves theater, movies and of course, a good cold brew! She also loves to travel whenever she has the opportunity. Jordi has been an active member of the MJE community for the past two years, and is looking forward to a meaningful and fulfilling year of learning.



Jesse Frankel

Originally hails from the mean streets of Lynbrook, New York (it's on Long Island). Jesse found his way to an MJE dinner at the urging of a current Senior Fellow. After another MJE West dinner, he found his way to Winter Retreat and was hooked. Holding degrees from the University of Maryland and Cardozo School of Law, Jesse is currently an E-Discovery attorney and is happy to be a part of the 2020/2021 Senior Fellowship class. In his free time, Jesse enjoys singing, watching sports, and coming up with absurd questions to ask Rabbi Wildes



Melissa Gitman

Born and raised in Montreal, Melissa is a physician at Mount Sinai Hospital specializing in microbiology and infectious disease. She graduated from McGill Medical School and earned a master's of public health at Harvard University. In her spare time, Melissa is an avid gymnast, loves to travel the world, and participate in MJE programs.



Chloe Godin

Chloe is a Swiss-American who moved to NYC 9 years ago. She works as a real estate broker at Triplemint, dedicated to helping her clients get the best possible deal and experience. Chloe loves to meet new people, practice yoga and dance Zumba and is passionate about any form of learning. She just joined as senior fellow at MJE after having attended events for the last couple of years and is very excited about this program and community.



Jayde Golovin

Jayde was born in NYC and raised in Marlboro, NJ. Jayde received her BS from Florida Atlantic University with a double major in Finance and Marketing. After graduating she moved back to New York to pursue a career in Finance. Since moving back, Jayde has focused on planting Jewish roots and building a stronger religious identity. MJE has played a vital part in her Jewish journey.



Adrian Gucovschi

Adrian Gucovschi was born in Colombia (South America) before moving to Florida at the age of nine. Adrian subsequently moved to New York at nineteen to complete his undergraduate studies at Yeshiva University. He later obtained a Juris Doctor from Fordham Law School and now practices law as a commercial litigator. Through the MJE Fellowship, Adrian has gained a better understanding of his Jewish roots and become a positive role-model to his community.



Stephanie Hausner

Stephanie is from New City, NY where she proudly held the position of Councilwoman of Clarkstown for 8 years. She graduated from the Johns Hopkins University with a degree in International Relations. Stephanie is the Managing Director of the Israel Action Network at the Jewish Federations of North America, where she spends her time combating BDS, the delegitimization of Israel and antisemitism. Stephanie enjoys the NY Rangers, racking up frequent flyer miles (in non-covid times), reading, and baking challah.



Anna Hertz

Anna works in the retail industry and is currently a Senior Manager of Operation Planning and Analytics for a global hair care company. Outside of work, Anna enjoys reading, cooking, Jewish learning, and spending quality time with loved ones and friends. A native New Yorker, Anna loves being part of the vibrant UWS and MJE community.



Dan Lasman

Dan Lasman (Daniel Chaim ben Baruch) is a first generation American from Berkley, CA. Dan holds a BA in European History as well as World Literature from UCSC. Dan also earned a Master of Science in Sustainable Real Estate Development from NYU. He enjoys spending time with his family, is an avid outdoorsman and hiker, enjoys reading, cooking, writing poetry, painting, playing djembe and gardening. Dan enjoys learning with the MJE Senior Fellowship, a cornerstone of his weekly Torah studies, His favorite Jewish topic is learning how to raise his new daughter Billie (Vilna Devorah) with Torah values in concert with his wife Lea Lasman.



Nicole Lehrer

Nicole Lehrer grew up in an eclectic household in New Orleans with her Egyptian mom, Connecticut dad, two older brothers, and German dog named Max. After finishing her Ph.D. in interactive stroke rehabilitation, Nicole moved to NYC to pursue mobile software development. Nicole enjoys time with family, live music, painting, veggie cooking, and all things Nike. She's grateful for discovering MJE and is excited for all of the new BFF's she hopes to make during Fellowship.



Erica Maestro

Erica is a native New Yorker who grew up between Queens, NY and Barcelona, Spain. Fluent in six languages, Erica loves learning and engaging with people of all backgrounds. She organizes various chesed projects affiliated with KJ and Batsheva. In her downtime, she enjoys art exhibits and playing with her Yorkie "Neshama". Erica hopes to inspire others through her devotion to Judaism, acts of kindness, and her participation in MJE.



Evan Rabin

Evan is one of the few MJE Community members that was born and raised on the Upper West Side. He graduated from Dwight School, (three blocks away from MJE) in 2008 and Brandeis University, with a BA in Business and International Global Studies in 2012. Evan spent the spring of his Junior Year studying abroad in Masa Israel Program at Tel Aviv University. After doing enterprise sales in Corporate America at Oracle and Rapid7, he utilized his true passion for chess as a National Master and began Premier Chess in July 2017, which now runs programs in 100+ schools and companies.



Michael Savetsky

Dr. Savetsky grew up in Long Island and worked as an ophthalmologist in Manhattan, before getting married in August 2020 and moving out to the West Coast with his wife Amy, also an MJE Fellow. He joined the MJE Senior Fellowship program to enhance his fundamental knowledge of Judaism, and to be a part of the Jewish community. He is looking forward to growing in his observance.



Scott Shapiro

Scott is originally from Pennsylvania and attended Rider University where he majored in Finance. He first joined MJE for our Monday night class and after hearing Rabbi Wildes talk about the Torah he realized that MJE was a perfect fit. Since then Scott has become an active member in the MJE community and proud graduate of 2017/18 Fellowship class. In his free time Scott enjoys bike riding, snowboarding and hiking.



Shaina Slonim

Shaina was born and raised in Great Neck, moved to NYC for grad school, and returned for the grass, trees and stars. She works for a candy distribution company while pursuing her passions of cooking, writing and CrossFit. An active member of her book club, Shaina also plays the piano and is a devoted mother to her rescue dog. She looks forward to continuing her Jewish studies as a Senior Fellow.



Max Sterling

Max grew up in the Midwest and went to school outside of LA. He taught English on a Fulbright grant in Argentina and earned his MFA in Acting from Columbia University. Before starting graduate school, Max volunteered in Israel, working on ambulances with Magin David Adom. He has worked extensively with the National Yiddish Theatre Folksbiene and has developed his own photographic work around Jewish identity and ritual objects.



Taryn Tanzer

Taryn is a native New Yorker who moved down south to attend Tulane University where she obtained a Bachelor of Science in Management and Master of Accounting. Upon graduation, Taryn returned to NYC and is currently President of Patient Care Associates, Inc., the premier point-of-care mobile diagnostic testing company in the North-East. In her free time, Taryn enjoys the company of her close friends, live music and traveling to destinations far removed from the "beaten path." Taryn is excited to continually connect and learn more about her Jewish roots through the MJE community. She is newly married to her husband Steve.



Simone Wiechselbaum

Simone Weichselbaum is a second-generation New Yorker. She was raised in Brooklyn and attended Park East Day School on the Upper East Side – the neighborhood she now calls home. Simone is a journalist currently writing about national policing issues for The Marshall Project. She is also the organization's diversity chair. Simone holds a graduate degree in criminology from the University of Pennsylvania.

FELLOWSHIP SUPPORTERS

Basya & Jonah Lobel

Leigh & Danny Waxman

Pearl Ginsburg

Laurie & Lewis Barbanel

Randi & David Sultan

Racheli & Shimon Laufer

Lisa & Paul Glazer

Elisa & Alan Pines

Shira & Jeff Eisenberg

Dr. & Mrs. Henry Kressel

Tehilla & Guy Tsadik

Avi and Becky Katz

Doris & Marcus Blumkin Z"l

Debbie & Bill Rand

Serge & Kaylee

chana weisberg

CLASS INCLUDES

The Next Level with Rabbi Mark Wildes

Fundamentals of Jewish Law, practice and philosophy.

Facets of the Torah with Rabbi Pinny Rosenthal

Understanding Chumash via study of the Parsha.

Seminar on Jewish Experience with MJE Educators

Various topics ranging from Women in Judaism, Jewish History, to Chassidic & Mystical Thought.

PROGRAM INCLUDES

Israel Trip

Heavily Subsidized Tanach/Bible learning trip to Israel.

*The Claire and Jack Margolius & Marilyn Margolius Craft MJE Fellowship Israel Trip is sponsored by Leigh and Daniel Waxman

Fellows Social Events

These are informal meetings in order to solidify group cohesion and create a lasting bond between Fellows.

Fieldtrips

Trips including YU Seforim Sale, kashrut run to Whole Foods and matzah baking factory.

Shabbatons

Observing Shabbat in suburban communities exposing Fellows to the broader Jewish community.

MJE Spring Retreat

3-Day Shabbat Getaway in the Berkshires with seminars, sports and kumzits.

Mentors

Each Fellow is assigned a mentor from the MJE staff to get the most from the program.

*these are in person during non-Covid years, and we have made many of our programs available virtually