Who's Who
Cohort Vav Fellows 2021
Springboard Fellowship
Cohort Vav Who’s Who

The Fellows

Allison Bloomberg (she/her)
Ezra Jewish Education Fellow, Hillel Jewish University Center of Pittsburgh

Born and raised in the suburbs of Detroit, Allison graduated from the University of Michigan with a B.A. in Psychology and Judaic Studies and a minor in Community Action and Social Change in December 2020. At Michigan, she spent most of her time involved with Michigan Hillel, holding various engagement and leadership positions, most notably serving as the ‘Host at Home’ Coordinator, and most recently representing Michigan Hillel on the Hillel International Student Cabinet. She has been attending Camp Ramah in Canada since 2008 and served as a Unit Head for the summer of 2020.

Allison spent a (short-lived) semester abroad in Jerusalem as a part of The Nachshon Project, and due to the pandemic, was fortunate to continue her studies back home. Between her academics at Michigan and in Jerusalem and being active in Hillel both locally and internationally, Allison solidified her truest passion - making an impact on the lives of Jewish community members. When Allison heard of the possibility of combining her love for Hillel work with the ability to meet new students, Springboard sounded like the perfect next step! Allison is SO excited to bring her innovative thinking, love for Judaism, and passion for meeting new people to her new role as the Ezra Fellow at Hillel JUC of Pittsburgh!

Amy Granick (she/her)
Ezra Jewish Education Fellow, Ohio State University Hillel

Amy Granick grew up in St. Louis Missouri before moving to Raleigh, North Carolina as a junior in high school. She went on to attend North Carolina State University where she studied Psychology and Business Administration and graduated in 3 years! At NC State, Amy began her involvement in Hillel as a student and intern for the Jewish Learning Fellowship. Her experience with JLF and close relationship with her Hillel director ultimately led her to want to pursue a career in Jewish education.

Amy is passionate about sharing her love of Judaism with her peers and exploring how Jewish teachings can be related to real life. She can be found eating sushi, petting her dogs, and watching reality TV shows. Amy is ecstatic to begin working with the students at Ohio State Hillel and to continue shaping and growing her Jewish identity. She also hopes to have the opportunity to travel to Israel during her time as a Springboard Ezra Fellow!
Ariel Nissan (she/her)
Innovation Fellow, University of Pennsylvania Hillel

Born and raised in North Carolina, Ariel is excited to venture north to Philadelphia this year! Ariel was raised in a traditional Mizrahi-Israeli family, and grew up speaking Hebrew at home and spending time in Israel. She was raised on the campus of the American Hebrew Academy (AHA), an international Jewish boarding school in Greensboro, NC, where she later attended high school. At AHA, she was immersed in a diverse community of young Jews from all around the world, which incited her passion for religious and cultural pluralism, Jewish education, and community building.

Ariel attended UNC Chapel Hill, where she double majored in Advertising and Public Relations and Jewish Studies. In her time there, she served as social media manager and co-president of Chabad, and worked in campus housing as a Resident Advisor for 3 years. In her free time, Ariel enjoys cooking, working out, going on long drives, discovering new music, or trying to teach herself a new language. Ariel is thrilled to be participating in the Springboard Fellowship as it enables her to combine her practical marketing and public relation skills with her love for student engagement, programming, and mentorship, all within a vibrant Jewish community. She can’t wait to bring her enthusiasm, warmth, and creative thinking to Penn Hillel and to help make students feel at home on campus!

Avi Dave (he/him)
Innovation Fellow, Hillel Foundation at Miami University (OH)

Avi has been passionate about the Jewish world for as long as he can remember. He has attended a Jewish elementary school, spent 12 summers at Jewish summer camp as a camper and staff member, and served multiple leadership roles in Jewish youth groups in high school. On top of that, Avi has had the privilege to travel to Israel four times from 2014-2019.

A 2020 graduate of Miami University with a B.A. in Public Administration, Avi was deeply involved with Jewish Life on campus, serving as a student leader in Hillel as well as the pro-Israel organizations on campus. It was through these experiences that Avi came to see just how much Jewish Life at Miami could mean for students. In his free time, Avi likes to cook, play table tennis, and travel.
Bailey Gamel (she/they)
Innovation Fellow, San Francisco Hillel

Born and raised in Denver, Colorado, Bailey moved to Tacoma, Washington to attend the University of Puget Sound. In May 2021, she graduated with a degree in Communication studies and a minor in Sociology & Anthropology. Throughout her time at college, Bailey was heavily involved with advocacy work, especially surrounding the expansion of mental health resources and other student support resources. She was a member of the student government for three years and wrote for various student publications.

Bailey was also a member of her campus’s Jewish Student Union as well as Queer Alliance (an LGBTQ group). Bailey is thrilled to be joining San Francisco Hillel as the Innovation Fellow. She is so excited to get work with college students as they navigate what it means to be a Jewish student in today’s world. In her free time, Bailey can be found in local coffee shops, exploring the beach, or cooking.

Carly Fleck (she/her)
Innovation Fellow, Houston Hillel

Carly Fleck grew up in Kalamazoo, Michigan before attending Grand Valley State University (GVSU) in Grand Rapids, Michigan where she majored in Communication Studies. During her time at GVSU, Carly found a Jewish Community within Hillel, something she had never had before. Quickly gaining interest in Hillel, Carly became a Social Media Editor as well as Vice President of her Hillel.

In 2019, Carly interned with the Jewish Federation of Grand Rapids as a Communications Specialist. Becoming more and more involved within the Jewish community, Carly began to realize that Hillel was not just an extracurricular club, but her passion as well. Outside of her professional life, you can find Carly walking her pug, practicing photography, and trying new restaurants. Carly is excited to bring her creative thinking and enthusiasm for Judaism to Houston Hillel.
Springboard Fellowship
Cohort Vav Who’s Who

The Fellows

Carson Pinker (she/her)
Innovation Fellow, North Carolina State University Hillel

Carson Pinker grew up in Dallas, Texas before attending school at the University of Miami in Miami, Florida. There, she earned a degree in Exercise Physiology on the Pre-Physical Therapy Track, a minor in Sports Medicine, and special concentrations in “Foundations of Behavior” and “Religion, Myth, and Interpretation.” She became involved in Hillel her first day on campus, serving on the Freshman Leadership Council, attending weekly Shabbat services and dinners, and going with Hillel to Israel on both Birthright and Onward trips, just to name a few. Outside of Hillel, Carson was involved across campus as a participant of the school’s club Taekwondo team where she served as president and instructor for two years. She also was a sister of the Chi Omega Fraternity where she spent two terms on the executive board as the Foundation Ambassador and Vice President. Additionally, Carson was an active member and leader in the University of Miami Alternative Breaks program, and a peer Residential Academic Advisor in the first-year dorms. In her free time, Carson loves to read, cook, paint, play the violin and ukulele, and spend time outdoors. She is so excited to join the Hillel team as a Springboard Fellow and have the opportunity to help students explore and hone their passions!

Claire Naiman (she/her)
Social Justice Fellow, University of Arizona Hillel Foundation

Born and raised in Arizona, Claire Naiman grew up on the cusp of different racial and religious communities. From a young age, she found herself unintentionally bridging the gap between different peoples and groups. The impact of this experience became apparent when she began her studies at Barrett, the Honors College at Arizona State University, pursuing and completing degrees in both Global Studies and Philosophy (Morality, Politics, and Law). During her college career, Claire trained in the art of inclusivity, spent time as an ASU Hillel Interfaith and Social Action Fellow, engaged as a Lincoln Undergraduate Scholar with a focus on interdisciplinary ethics, and participated as an Obama Foundation Civic Leadership Summit trainee, all fueling her passion for justice, community engagement, inclusivity, and bridging the gap between different communities. Claire attributes this passion to her Jewish values and identity. Outside of her professional life, Claire loves to travel, sing, and cook! Claire is beyond excited to be a part of the Hillel team and to help students realize their social action dreams and goals on campus with regard to Jewish values.
Danielle Kogan (she/her)
Innovation Fellow, Tanger Hillel - Brooklyn College

Danielle is a multidisciplinary actress and NYC native who runs an ensemble production company centered around elevating new work. She’s also a first-generation American, passionate about universal truths, building communities, and making a positive impact. In 2020, she graduated with distinction from CUNY Brooklyn with degrees in Theater and Journalism, as well as a deep love for the Tanger Hillel.

As a student, Danielle spent her time offstage as the General Manager of her campus radio station after a year as the News Director known for starting the largest, most diverse newsroom on campus. Her team at the time was responsible for beating the New York Times to a local story. Her previous bylines can be found as an international reporter with Newsweek, a local reporter for Brooklyn papers, and a college paper previously known as the Kingsman. She stayed busy in the pandemic as an international tutor with a roster of students from over 20 countries, and reconnected with her heritage and Jewish identity by staying involved with an organization known as the Russian-American Jewish Experience (RAJE). Danielle is very grateful for the surreal experience that includes circling back to her roots with Tanger Hillel. She’s excited to build multi-faceted creative programming that inspires joy and coexistence. In no particular order, Danielle loves to spend her free time traveling, dancing, eating dark chocolate, bursting into song, and reading.

Danielle Touboul (she/her)
Social Justice Fellow, Hillel at the University of Miami

Born and raised in Los Angeles, Danielle moved to the San Francisco Bay Area to attend the University of California, Berkeley, where she graduated with a B.A. in Global Studies and a minor in Hebrew. At Berkeley, she found her passion for community building and activism through her work as a chief of staff in a student senate office and as a tax preparer for the greater East Bay community. Although she was not initially involved with the Jewish community at Berkeley, this all changed after participating in Onward Israel as an intern at the Reut Institute, where she researched the delegitimization of Israel and the Jewish diaspora. While she was sad to leave Israel and the Tel Aviv beaches, she was ecstatic to come home and spend her afternoons at Hillel, learning and experiencing more of her Judaism and Israeli-American background. Danielle is very excited to be able to foster this same type of inclusive community for the students at the University of Miami Hillel.
The Fellows

**Dylan Caine** (he/him)
**Ezra Jewish Education Fellow, Hillel at Stanford**

Dylan Caine, born and raised in Northeast Ohio, is beyond excited to join Hillel at Stanford University this fall as an Ezra Jewish Education Springboard Fellow. A recent graduate of Grinnell College, where he completed an independent major in Jewish and Israeli Studies, Dylan returned to the United States last summer after finishing a year-long course at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. There, he pursued studies in Israeli history, rabbinic thought, international law, and modern Jewish philosophy. While in Israel, he also enjoyed hiking, volunteering, making Shabbat with his friends, and learning from diverse communities throughout the country. This summer, Dylan is looking forward to joining Hadar’s Summer Beit Midrash in New York, trekking out to California, and connecting with other Springboard fellows nationwide. A fan of all things Judaism, Cleveland, Kerouac, and early 70s folk-scene related, Dylan cannot wait to work with students of all backgrounds to strengthen Jewish life at Stanford for years to come!

**Einat Livni** (she/her)
**Innovation Fellow, Hillel British Columbia**

Originally born in Arad, Israel to Russian Jewish parents, Einat’s family moved to Winnipeg, Manitoba when she was 10 years old and she has lived there ever since. She graduated from the University of Manitoba with a BA from Asper Business School where she studied Marketing and Leadership Organization. Einat quickly found her passion for Hillel Winnipeg during the time that she was attending university. She has been a high school basketball coach for 5 years. Einat loves all things outdoors and nature: camping, hiking, skiing, and biking. She is excited to meet new students and create new memories at her new role at Hillel British Columbia as the Innovation Fellow.
Springboard Fellowship
Cohort Vav Who’s Who

The Fellows

Eric Blatt (he/him)
Innovation Fellow, Cohen Hillel at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

Eric was born and raised in Owings Mills, Maryland, and is a first-generation American with family originally from Ukraine (the former Soviet Union). He attended Penn State University in State College, Pennsylvania where he received a BA in Labor and Employment Relations, as well as a minor in Jewish studies. During his time at Penn State, he became very involved with the Jewish community as well as Israel advocacy. He was also able to travel to Israel 5 times. After leaving Penn State, he moved to Jerusalem for 9 months to study at Aish HaTorah where he spent his time learning and helping new students find their own personal connection to Judaism. In his free time, he enjoys hiking, cooking, and the occasional game of Settlers of Catan.

Ethan Lerman (he/him)
Innovation Fellow, Northeastern University Hillel

Raised in Plainview, New York on Long Island, Ethan Lerman moved to Columbus, Ohio for college and attended The Ohio State University. He began college with the idea of becoming a veterinarian but after some exploration he changed his major to Psychology with a minor in Entomology and graduated in May of 2021. At OSU Ethan was involved in OSU Hillel, ZBT, and a sport and wellness scholars program. He was on the student board of Hillel, the risk manager of ZBT and was a scholar’s mentor for his scholars program. Additionally Ethan studied abroad in Tel-Aviv for 2.5 months before Covid sent him home. Outside of OSU, Ethan worked at Camp Ramah in the Berkshires for 3 summers (which would have been 4, but again Covid) as a counselor for teenage boys. He volunteers for the Crisis Text Line where he has been commended for his skills at crisis intervention. Ethan’s interest in animals and insects of all kinds brought him to a pit bull shelter where he assists with the recovering dogs. He has also been a licensed EMT for several years. Although Ethan is not quite sure which advanced degrees he will be earning, he does know that he has a passion for mentoring/counseling as well as for working with animals.
Hannah Margolis (she/her)
Ezra Jewish Education Fellow, University of Georgia Hillel

Raised in Scotch Plains, New Jersey, Hannah Margolis moved out to East Lansing, MI and graduated from Michigan State University (Go Green!) where she majored in Interdisciplinary Studies and minored in Jewish Studies. At MSU, she spent most of her time involved with Michigan State Hillel, where every year she held various types of positions on different boards, most recently serving as the Leadership Intern, where she was able to work with freshmen through a leadership development program. MSU Hillel was where Hannah found her home on campus and furthered her passion and desire to create and foster Jewish community for college students. Hannah has been attending Camp Ramah in the Berkshires since she was ten years old and has been on staff for the last four summers, coming up on a fifth. Camp was where she learned the importance of being surrounded by a Jewish community, which in turn greatly impacted her career path. When Hannah isn’t talking about how much she loves Judaism, she can be found hanging out with her friends, enjoying the outdoors, or heading to the next Broadway show. She is also an avid Olympic fan and can’t wait for the summer games! Hannah is psyched to move down to Athens, Georgia and bring her love of Judaism and passion for meeting new people to the students at UGA Hillel!

Jacob Brickman (he/him)
Innovation Fellow, Hillel Ontario (U of Waterloo)

Jacob Brickman was born in Toronto, Ontario, Canada and recently graduated from Western University in London, Ontario with a B.A. in Psychology. Jacob grew up active in his local synagogue community, where he was involved with youth group and NFTY, the Reform Jewish youth organization. While studying at Western, he was actively involved in Hillel. In his final year of undergrad, Jacob served as Western Hillel's VP of Student Life. There he oversaw several committees focusing on mental and physical health of students, supporting students in networking for career opportunities, and generally increasing Western Hillel's engagement from students across London's Jewish student community. Jacob has a passion for Jewish education and music, serving as Temple Israel of London's music teacher and song leader as well as having been Head Songleader at URJ Camp George. He has attended Jewish music conferences, including Songleader Boot Camp and Hava Nashira. In his personal time, Jacob enjoys creative writing, cooking, and road trips. He is looking forward to sharing his passions in his work as a Springboard Fellow where he will support Jewish students at Waterloo and empower their ideas and visions.
Springboard Fellowship
Cohort Vav Who’s Who
The Fellows

Jeremy Davis (he/him)
Ezra Jewish Education Fellow, Baruch College Hillel

Jeremy Davis was born and raised in the Long Island suburbs of Merrick, New York. A lifelong Ramahnik, he attended Camp Ramah in the Berkshires for eight summers before traveling to Israel for the first time on Ramah Seminar. Following high school, Jeremy flew the coop to attend the University of Delaware where he would major in Neuroscience and Psychology, while taking minors in Cognitive Science, Jewish Studies, and Philosophy. Almost immediately, he found his tribe at UD Hillel through Freshmen Fest—which led to him working as a Shabbat Life intern, serving as Vice President of Koach, and receiving the Breishit Rising Leader Award in his freshman year.

Over the next three years, he grew his love of spreadsheets and connecting with the Jewish community by working as a campus Birthright recruiter, serving as President of the interdenominational religious life board, representing UD Hillel at Masorti Shabbatons and the Hillel International Presidents Cohort, and co-founding Hillel’s Presidents’ Board.

After traveling on Birthright trip, Jeremy extended his stay to learn more about the history and geopolitics of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict as part of his growing interest in understanding the narratives and dialogue in the region. Outside of Hillel, Jeremy also worked at Delaware’s Writing Center as a Peer Tutor, where he was able to blend his passion for empowering others with his love of writing. A true New Yorker, you can expect him to be rooting for the Mets and Islanders, enjoying a fresh bialy, or contemplating this year’s snubs at the Oscars. Jeremy couldn’t be more thrilled to provide accessible, pluralistic Jewish learning for and with the students of Hillel at Baruch.

Jesse Steinman (he/him)
Innovation Fellow, Boston University Hillel

Jesse is from Columbus, Ohio, and recently graduated from Emory University in May 2021 with a double major in History and German Studies. Before Emory, Jesse took a gap year in Israel, which provided him with the opportunity to develop a meaningful relationship with both Judaism and Israel. His Jewish journey evolved in Atlanta when he became a leader at Emory Hillel. After three years of various leadership positions, he became Co-President of Emory Hillel, where he spearheaded interreligious and pluralistic programming and a Jewish anti-racist initiative.

When Jesse was not at Hillel, you could find him practicing with the Ultimate Frisbee team, singing in his a cappella group, or conducting research on Israeli diplomacy. During his college years, he also spent significant time in Vienna and Berlin, immersing himself in the Jewish communities there and in questions of transatlantic Jewish relations. He looks forward to incorporating these relationships into his work at Boston University Hillel. In his free time, you can find Jesse baking, going to concerts, or yelling at his TV when the Boston Celtics play. He is incredibly excited to work with BU Hillel’s amazing students to reimagine Jewish engagement, prioritizing radical inclusivity so Jewish life on campus can become as strong as possible.
Jessica Partridge (she/her)
Social Justice Fellow, Hillel at Washington University in St. Louis

Jessica Partridge grew up in the capital and heartland of Ohio, spending her formative years in Columbus before attending Ohio University. There she earned her degree in English: Cultures, Rhetoric and Theory. With this, she also received certificates in Women's Gender and Sexuality Studies and Diversity Studies as an aim to ground her passion for social justice through academic exploration. Jessica's Jewish journey merges with such passion through her devotion to the concept of Tikkun Olam, or repairing the world, as she was an active participant in her alma mater's Hillel. There she led various activities centered around Jewish womanhood and feminism. Through the years she served as an engagement intern, a student voice on the board of directors and Hillel student president. In addition, Birthright became a profound steppingstone during her time in undergrad, as Israel not only left a special imprint on her heart but ignited a yearning within her to once again return.

Along with her dedication to the intersection of social justice and Judaism, Jessica also has a deep love and appreciation for writing as she worked as an intern for the New Ohio Review in the spring of 2021 feverishly editing, composing and sifting through piles of submitted work. During her free-time she enjoys exploring book stores and coffee shops alike, always in search of the best book and brew of the moment.

Joanna Berman (she/her)
Innovation Fellow, UNC Chapel Hill Hillel

Joanna is originally from New York City and recently graduated from Tulane University with a BSM in Management, a Certificate in Entrepreneurship, and a minor in Public Health. Joanna has always found a place in the Jewish community, joining Tulane Hillel's leadership program, Tulane Jewish Leaders, her freshman year. It was there where she was matched with a mentor and explored her passions by creating programming. Joanna was also involved in Greek life, Mortar Board, and served as a peer mentor, supporting students in their transition to Tulane University.

Joanna studied abroad in Madrid and was a Global Ambassador through the organization KAHAL, where she helped create an international Jewish community. During her summers, she sought professional experiences in the Jewish nonprofit sector. She interned at the JCC Association to execute the 2019 Maccabi Games, participated in NYU's Collegiate Leadership Internship Program, and also interned at The Hadassah Foundation. Through these experiences, she realized her passion for helping others and engaging the Jewish community. She loves to meet new people, go to spin class, travel, and cook. She is excited to work with students at UNC Hillel, explore new places, and utilize design thinking in her work.
Springboard Fellowship
Cohort Vav Who’s Who
The Fellows

Joanna Sherman (she/her)
Innovation Fellow, Cornell Hillel

Born and raised in Cleveland, Ohio, Joanna graduated from Northwestern University in 2021 and majored in Learning and Organizational Change with a minor in Spanish. While at Northwestern, she was a senator for Student Government and served on the Justice and Inclusion committee, where she helped support policies to expand book services and career advising for first generation low income students. She also served as Vice President for the Northwestern Hillel Exec Board and oversaw religious programming, developed engagement initiatives, and led the First Year Students at Hillel (FYSH) cohort.

She loves engaging with new students and learning about their Jewish journeys as well as sharing her own stories from Jewish summer camp and BBYO summer programs. Joanna loves coffee chats (but actually only drinks tea), Peloton, and baking desserts and challah. Her life goal is to travel to all of Buzzfeed’s top 27 ice cream shops in the world–she is currently at 12! Joanna is excited to explore new coffee (tea) spots and ice cream places in Ithaca and engage with the Cornell Hillel and greater Jewish community.

Jordana Gruber (she/her)
Innovation Fellow, Cincinnati Hillel

Jordana Gruber grew up in Rockville, Maryland before attending the College of Charleston (CofC), earning a B.A. in both Jewish Studies and Psychology. At CofC, she was involved in Hillel, holding numerous leadership positions as well as Greek life as a member of Sigma Kappa. She strengthened her sense of community as well as her communication skills by working for local Charleston establishments. During the summers, Jordana worked for Ramah Day Camp of Greater Washington. In addition, she held a research assistant position at the Center for the Study of Traumatic Stress, a division of the Department of Psychiatry for the Uniformed Services University. Jordana also studied abroad in London, England until she had to come home due to the global pandemic. A fun fact about Jordana is she is fully ambidextrous–she uses both hands with equal dexterity. She is SO excited about being able to help shape and foster students’ Jewish journeys and identities at the University of Cincinnati’s Hillel.
Springboard Fellowship
Cohort Vav Who’s Who

The Fellows

Joshua Rudman (he/him)
Innovation Fellow, Michigan State University Hillel

Born and raised in St. Louis, Missouri, Joshua Rudman studied at University of Missouri where he earned Bachelors of Science in Animal Sciences and a Minor in Religious Studies in 2020. In his four years at college, Joshua found his passions in community building, conservation, and Judaism. He particularly enjoyed his religious studies classes. Joshua involved himself in all things Jewish growing up, including BBYO, NFTY, and attending Camp Sabra. He then joined AEPI, Hillel, and staffed at Sabra for 5 years.

Joshua became the Unit Head at camp in a supervisory role where the emphasis was to have fun, be engaged, and work as a team. The experience of planning and leading diverse programs solidified the idea of moving into a career as a Jewish professional. Joshua is beyond excited to start this new chapter in becoming the Innovation Fellow at Michigan State University. Joshua has never been outside Missouri for longer than a month, so he is ecstatic to be in a completely new place where he will connecting with the people of Lansing and the greater Hillel community. In his free time in Michigan, Joshua will definitely look for the best places to camp, play disc golf, sing at open mics, and enjoy some espresso.

Julia Banfill (she/her)
Innovation Fellow, CU Boulder Hillel

Julia Banfill was born and raised in sunny Tallahassee, Florida. She majored in Family and Child Sciences at Florida State University with a minor in Psychology. During the summers, Julia worked as an assistant unit leader at Camp Mountain Chai in the mountains of Southern California. Camp gave Julia the opportunity to attend the Foundation for Jewish Camp’s Cornerstone Fellowship, where she learned new ways to implement prayer into camp settings.

Julia also interned with DOROT, a Jewish non-profit that serves to alleviate social isolation among older adults. She ran intergenerational programs to connect teens and the aging population. This year-long internship showed her the importance of social connection for vulnerable communities. During college, Julia was on the FSU Mock Trial team, sang with the Women’s Glee Club, and held a position on the executive board of her sorority. Julia’s favorite past times are watching musicals and singing showtunes. She also loves Indie films and bad reality TV. Julia can’t wait to meet and engage students in Jewish life on campus at CU Boulder.
Springboard Fellowship
Cohort Vav Who’s Who

The Fellows

**Julia Barron** (she/her)
**Innovation Fellow, Hillel Council of New England**

Julia Barron grew up in Western Massachusetts but now luckily calls the shores of Lake Winnipesaukee, New Hampshire her home. Julia spent four amazing years in New Orleans during her undergrad at Tulane University, where she majored in Spanish with minors in Latin American Studies and Teaching, Learning and Training. On campus, she was very involved at Tulane Hillel, spending three years as the Social Media and Marketing intern where she managed the organization's social media platforms and collaborated with fellows and staff on the weekly newsletter. She also enjoyed planning programming through Tulane Jewish Leaders (TJL), planning kayaking trips, Friendsgiving feasts, women’s empowerment yoga, and more!

She feels very grateful to have also been given the opportunity to have her Bat Mitzvah on her Birthright Trip with Hillel after her sophomore year. Outside of Hillel, Julia fell in love with New Orleans culture and enjoyed running throughout the city, training for two half marathons during college, and listening to live music whenever she stumbled upon it. She can most likely be found testing new recipes in her kitchen for her wellness Instagram page, traveling, and spending as much time outdoors as humanly possible. Julia is very excited about the platform that Springboard will provide for her, combining her passion for education and mentorship with her desire to collaborate and plan exciting and meaningful programming with students. She can't wait to move to Boston and step into her unique role as Hillel Council of New England's first Springboard fellow!

**Karoline Robb** (she/her)
**Innovation Fellow, Hillel at Florida State University**

Karoline Robb grew up in Abington, Pennsylvania before moving to Philadelphia, PA to attend Drexel University. At Drexel, she majored in Management Information Systems and Business Analytics while having the opportunity to participate in three professional experiences, known as co-ops. Karoline did her co-ops at SEI Investments, Chubb Insurance, and Independence Blue Cross working in various positions. Outside of working, Karoline was an active member of her sorority, Delta Gamma, where she held a position on the Executive Board for a year. Additionally, Karoline was incredibly involved with Jewish life on campus. Her passion for Jewish life began when she set out to revive the Conservative Minyan group at Drexel Hillel. This ultimately led to her holding several positions, including two consecutive years on the Executive Board, concluding her time as President. For all of her commitment to Jewish life on campus, Karoline was honored as the Hillel Student Exemplar of 2021. Being a part of Hillel allowed her to feel empowered to discover her own Jewish identity and inspired her to pursue a career as a Jewish professional. In her free time, Karoline can often be found trying new coffee places, going on nature walks and bike rides. She is also a huge music lover and an avid book reader. Karoline is beyond excited for her new role as the Innovation Fellow at FSU. She is especially ecstatic about being able to help future students discover their own Jewish identity and to continue making an impact on the Jewish community.
Springboard Fellowship
Cohort Vav Who’s Who

The Fellows

Lani Chavin (she/her)
Innovation Fellow, University of Delaware Hillel

Lani Chavin grew up in Charleston, SC before attending the George Washington University (GW) where she double majored in Psychology and Sociology. At GW, Lani found her passion for community engagement through her involvement with student organizations such as GW Dance Marathon and GW Alternative Breaks. Lani spent all four years of college on the executive board of Camp Kesem GW, a national nonprofit that supports children through and beyond their parents’ cancer. With her camp identity “Sketcher,” Lani introduced new recruitment strategies, training programs, and the concept of a chapter general body, focusing on new member engagement.

When not doing Kesem activities, Lani deepened her involvement in the Jewish community as a Leadership Development Intern at the Religious Action Center, a Direct and Digital Marketing Intern at Hillel International, and spending her summers as a counselor at the URJ Camp Coleman. She can be found spending her hours on the Peloton, keeping up with all Philly sports, and baking! Lani is excited to meet students and bring her positive energy and creativity to establish more inclusive and engaging marketing and offer programming through a Jewish lens.

Leora Lindenbaum (she/her)
Innovation Fellow, Central Florida Hillel

Born and raised in Milwaukee Wisconsin, Leora Lindenbaum graduated from Indiana University-Bloomington with a BA in both Psychology and Jewish Studies. At IU she was involved in her sorority AEPhi, worked as a research assistant in the Psychology Department, and was an active member of the IU Hillel community. In her sorority, she held the position of ritualist, where she helped continue old traditions and create new ones with her sisters and strove to create a positive environment for all members.

Leora’s favorite things to do are to hang out with friends, explore new places and go on adventures. She spent her study abroad experience at Hebrew University in Jerusalem on the Nachshon Project. Through this leadership program, she found ways in which she could combine her interest in psychology/well-being and her attachment to the Jewish community. Leora is very excited to have this opportunity to meet new people and contribute to the warm community at UCF Hillel as an Innovation Fellow.
LilyFish Gomberg (she/they)
Ezra Jewish Education Fellow, Vanderbilt Hillel

Hailing from outside of Boston, MA, LilyFish Gomberg attended college at Brandeis University and majored in Near Eastern & Judaic Studies with minors in Sexuality & Queer Studies and History. At Brandeis, they were President of the Brandeis Reconstructionist Organization (a member group of Hillel at Brandeis), Vice President of their Jewish sorority (SAEPI), and a member of the Student Sexuality Information Service on campus.

LilyFish is also an aspiring Reconstructionist Rabbi with deep roots in the Jewish Reconstructionist community, having attended and taught at a Reconstructionist Religious School for 18 years and at Camp Havaya for 11 years. They also spent 6 months as an assistant teacher for kindergarteners at a Jewish day school after college. LilyFish is excited to dedicate their life to creating community for and educating Jews from all walks of life. Outside of their professional life, LilyFish enjoys painting and spending time with friends.

Maddy Greene (she/her)
Social Justice Fellow, Hillel at Florida State University

Born and raised in a suburb outside of Cleveland, Ohio, Maddy attended Kent State University and majored in Communication Studies with a concentration in Media and Society. Studying communication, she became fascinated with the concept of social media as a tool for social movements and activism. At college, Maddy soon found a home at Hillel Kent State, where understanding the intersectionality and pluralism of Judaism became an important part of her journey. She helped run the social media platforms for three different Jewish student organizations, including the Israel on campus committee and Hillel Kent State. Furthermore, she became involved in leadership roles in the Jewish community and in Greek Life.

Participating in two fellowships through Cleveland Hillel, she found a passion for learning from Jewish texts about social justice. Volunteering with Challah for Hunger, Jewish Family Services of Cleveland, and a local children’s hospital, service and philanthropy became priorities in Maddy’s personal and professional life. Maddy is excited to empower Jewish students at Florida State University to get involved and to repair the world in ways that are meaningful to them.
Springboard Fellowship
Cohort Vav Who’s Who
The Fellows

Madeline Amonick (she/they)
Social Justice Fellow, Northwestern Hillel

Madeline Amonick grew up in Aurora, Colorado before attending the Johns Hopkins University where she majored in Writing Seminars with a minor in Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies. In the classroom she studied literature, creative writing, feminist and queer theory, but found her commitment to social justice serving with and learning from community partners in Baltimore. The hope and pride of Baltimoreans encouraged Madeline to find opportunities to create community with people passionate about creating social change. She went on to lead the Hopkins social justice pre-orientation program for three years and serve as the Hillel Student Board’s Social Justice Chair through the COVID-19 pandemic. As a writer, Madeline sought ways to intersect her love of storytelling with the pursuit of justice.

While working with the Station North Arts and Entertainment District and teaching creative writing in Baltimore City Schools, Madeline’s work was inspired by Jewish values of Tzedek and Tikkun Olam. Simultaneously, a growing attention to her own Jewish identity supported and revealed the rich crossroads between service and Judaism. In her new role, as a Springboard Social Justice Fellow, she is excited to teach and learn alongside the Northwestern University community about the ways in which Judaism and justice are intrinsically connected. In her free time, Madeline and her cat, Morris, like to do sudoku puzzles while watching RuPaul’s Drag Race.

Mickey Benson (they/them)
Ezra Jewish Education Fellow, Hillel at Binghamton

Mickey grew up in Portland, Oregon but picked up a midwestern accent after spending college in Albion, Michigan. While studying at Albion College, Mickey received a degree in Religious Studies with a concentration in Public Policy and a minor in history.

Outside of school, Mickey was president of three campus clubs: Hillel, Knitting Club, and a group of Medievalists. They are passionate about useless trivia, making art, community inclusion, and creative Jewish learning. Mickey is extremely excited to be joining Hillel at Binghamton University as an Ezra Jewish Education Fellow so that they can have creative, humorous, and introspective conversations with students!
Springboard Fellowship
Cohort Vav Who’s Who

The Fellows

Mollie Leibowitz (she/her)
Ezra Jewish Education Fellow, University of Vermont Hillel

Mollie grew up in New York City before moving to the Boston area where she attended Tufts University. She graduated in 2021 with a B.A. in Philosophy and minors in Judaic Studies and Studio Art. She focused her study of Judaism on Kabbalah and queerness, writing a directed study which explored the usages of the female aspect of God. During her sophomore year, Mollie worked as a Community Building Fellow for Tufts Hillel. She returned her senior year as one of the two Senior Fellows responsible for running the program. The fellowship helped Mollie actualize her interests in Jewish learning and community building and motivated her to pursue a career in Jewish Education.

Outside of her interest in Judaic Studies, Mollie loves to play card games, especially bridge. She also dabbles in mahjongg, which she plays online with her grandmother. She spent a semester abroad in Florence (which was sadly cut short due to COVID), where she took courses in oil painting, printmaking, and philosophy. Being away from her family and friends made her Jewish identity even stronger. Mollie cannot wait to join the Hillel at the University of Vermont as their Ezra Fellow and to help students strengthen and grow their Jewish identities and experiences.

Naomi Balaban (she/her)
Innovation Fellow, Hillel at Florida International University

Moving around every few years, Naomi Balaban decided that she wasn’t quite set on going to college right after graduating from high school in Sandy Springs, GA. So the summer after graduation when her parents moved to Florida, she packed her bags and set off for Nativ College Gap Year in Israel. During her gap year, Naomi spent her first semester studying at Hebrew University and her second living and volunteering in Yerucham. What was supposed to only be a 9 month experience shifted all her original plans as she decided to extend her time in Israel and attend IDC, Herzliya taking courses in Psychology.

After 2 years of studying in Israel, Naomi moved back to Florida to be close to family, apply to schools and gain more experience within and outside of her field. In the Spring of 2020, Naomi started at the Florida International University in Miami and graduated a year later Summa Cum Lade / Phi Beta Kappa with a Major in Psychology and a Minor in Public Administration. During this time, Naomi had the chance to intern with various organizations and gain certifications for FEMA and behavioral therapy. She has a passion for working with people with special needs and loves spending her time planning events, exploring with family and friends, and trying out new recipes and places to eat.
Nicki Greenberg (she/her)
Innovation Fellow, Cleveland Hillel (Case Western)

Nicki Greenberg grew up on Long Island, New York before attending the University of Delaware (UD) where she majored in Public Policy and minored in Jewish Studies and Organizational and Community Leadership. At UD, Nicki spent a lot of her time at UD Hillel where she was a Campus Engagement Intern, Fundraising Intern, board member for Blue Hens for Israel, and Freshmen Fest leader. Though those were her official roles, it was also her favorite place to “study”. When not hanging out at Hillel, Nicki loved to empower and advocate for women on and off UD’s campus as the president of Strong Like A Girl and was a Community Engagement Scholar.

Nicki spent the Fall of her junior year studying abroad in London, England where she took classes on British subcultures, theater, and history all while exploring London’s museums and neighborhoods. Nicki loves red Mike & Ikes, her dog, and laughing so hard she can’t finish a story. She is so excited to explore Cleveland and to help make a difference at Cleveland Hillel one coffee conversation at a time!

Rebecca Ezersky (she/her)
Innovation Fellow, Jewish Life at Duke

Rebecca is excited to join Jewish Life at Duke as the Springboard Innovation Fellow. Originally from the San Francisco area, Rebecca recently graduated from the University of Southern California, where she received a Master of Public Administration and B.S. in public policy. On campus, Rebecca was heavily involved in Jewish life as a Campus Engagement Intern, Freshmen Engagement Fellow, and Tzedek Chair. These roles inspired to pursue a career in the Jewish community.

She also worked with international teaching assistants to support their English language skills, as well as tutored middle and high school students in the surrounding USC area. Off campus, Rebecca interned with the Jewish Community Relations Council and the County of Los Angeles. In her free time, you can find Rebecca baking with friends, watching movies, or listening to Taylor Swift on repeat.
Rebecca Ross (she/her)
Innovation Fellow, Hillel Ontario (Laurier)

Coming soon...

Rhodondo Jeraman (Rj) (he/him)
Innovation Fellow, Baruch College Hillel

Born in Trinidad and raised in Midwood Brooklyn, Rhodondo (Rj) Jeraman graduated from the City University of New York at Hunter College where he double majored in history and Jewish studies. During his duration at Hunter, Rj took on leadership roles in Jewish organizations such as Hillel International and Be’chol Lashon. In these capacities he helped organize and run numerous virtual projects aimed at engaging and amplifying diverse Jewish communities while catering to new student needs.

As an undergraduate, Rj was involved in numerous cross-denominational leadership opportunities as a Nachshon project fellow, HISC cabinet member, and ICC fellow. He was also a participant of an annual interfaith student leader trip to the West Bank and Israel in 2019. These experiences coupled with his work as a community engagement intern at Hunter Hillel led him to rethink, redesign and reimagine what Jewish student life could look like in the future. He is excited to share his story and background working in Jewish spaces as an Innovation fellow at Baruch College Hillel.
Sammi Galinson (she/her)
Social Justice Fellow, Metro Chicago Hillel

Originally from Minnetonka, Minnesota, Sammi moved to Madison, Wisconsin to pursue her bachelor’s degree in Economics and International Studies at University of Wisconsin. During her time at UW-Madison, Sammi tried every restaurant on State Street and discovered her love for coffee shops. Sammi was involved in many different social justice clubs at Hillel on campus. Her favorite was WeTalkFeminism, an intersectional women’s feminist group, which she led for two years. When she was not at Hillel, Sammi worked as an undergraduate research assistant for the sociology and human geography departments! She is SO excited to be in Chicago and cannot wait to connect with students across the MCH campuses. Sammi hopes to make Hillel a space where Jewish students feel that their voices are heard.

Sarah Balis (she/her)
Innovation Fellow, University of Michigan Hillel

Sarah Balis grew up in Dallas, Texas before attending Barrett, the Honors College at Arizona State University (ASU). She majored in Human Communication with minors in Religious Studies and Nonprofit Management. At ASU, she was a member of Alpha Gamma Delta and served in many leadership roles, including being on the Panhellenic Council. She was extremely involved with the Hillel on campus and served as Vice President of Marketing, an Engagement Intern, and Student President. Her favorite parts of being Student President included meeting students for coffee, planning the intern retreats, and attending the first Fact Finders trip to Israel. She loved working to make ASU Hillel a more inclusive home for everyone. She has spent the last year in Jerusalem teaching English with Masa Israel Teaching Fellows. Although she is going to miss the shawarma and rugelach in Israel, she is excited to bring her passion for Jewish life to the University of Michigan and meet the amazing students there.
Sarah Birch (she/her)
Ezra Jewish Education Fellow, San Francisco Hillel

Sarah Birch grew up in Folsom, California before moving up to the Pacific Northwest to attend University of Oregon where she majored in Sociology and minored in Spanish. Seeking a Jewish community at UO, Sarah became involved with Oregon Hillel serving on the student board, as a Shabbat song leader, and on the Women’s Retreat planning committee where she discovered her passion for community building. In summer of 2019, Sarah studied Spanish abroad in Oviedo, Spain, where she lived with a host family and enjoyed traveling around the beautifully green region of Asturias. During the pandemic, Sarah had the pleasure of working as a virtual intern with Hillel International’s Center for Engagement, Inclusion, and Wellness. Outside of her internship with the SIC, Sarah was involved with wellness on the University of Oregon campus, working at their Duck Nest Wellness Center for 3 years. There she had the opportunity to support the wellness needs of fellow students, create programming around self-love, and facilitate the Body Love Society, a body acceptance group. In her free time, Sarah can be found dancing and singing to albums in her kitchen, attending concerts and musicals, finding dogs to pet, wandering in parks, crafting, and enthusing about tea, books, and space. She loves meeting new people and having long, winding conversations. Sarah is grateful and excited for the opportunity to support students and create Jewish community as the Ezra fellow at SF Hillel.

Sarah Chalmin (she/her)
Innovation Fellow, Hillel Jewish University Center of Pittsburgh

Raised in Bel Air, Maryland, Sarah attended the University of Delaware where she majored in Human Services with a clinical concentration and minored in both Psychology and Disability Studies. She started school with a passion for working with children, and slowly discovered she was also passionate about working with older high schoolers and freshmen on campus. This propelled her into her many roles at UD Hillel throughout her 4 years. She was heavily involved in Freshmen Fest, the early move-in program for freshmen, in which she served as a group leader for one year followed by two years on the executive board as the Leadership chair and Executive coordinator. Additionally, she was able to foster her love for helping others in internships she completed for her major which included being a teacher’s aide in a classroom abroad in Barbados and working as the senior intern at an art therapy studio.

Through her experiences, she found a drive to work with college students, coming up with new ways to engage them both in person and virtually. Outside of working and mentoring others, she enjoys the outdoors, either hiking, or spending time by lake or at the beach. She loves to explore new places, restaurants, and shops. You can usually spot her stopped to pet any and every dog on the street. She is so excited to bring her love for mentoring to Pittsburgh at the Hillel JUC!
Shaina Morrel (she/her)
Social Justice Fellow, Syracuse Hillel

Shaina Morrel grew up in Central Massachusetts before attending the George Washington University in Washington, DC where she studied International Affairs, focusing on culture and human rights. She grew up immersed in the Jewish community - attending URJ camp, NFTY, and Heller High. In college, she became deeply involved in GW Hillel and founded a chapter of SAEPi, a Jewish First, Greek Second sorority on campus. Along this journey, Shaina found and fostered her love for the intersections of Judaism and social justice, immersing in learning opportunities and spaces to explore these ideas.

In her free time she can be found hiking, spending time with family, practicing yoga, and in the kitchen trying new vegetarian recipes. Shaina is excited to be a part of the Syracuse University and the Hillel International community, to learn with and from students, and to create meaningful, inclusive and intersectional programming opportunities.

Shaya Kalmanofsky (he/him)
Ezra Jewish Education Fellow, Tulane Hillel

The second youngest of four kids, Shaya Kalmanofsky was born and raised in New York City. Shaya’s favorite sports teams are the New York Mets, Knicks, and despite growing up in NYC, the Chicago Bears. He spent many years going to Jewish day school on the Upper West Side and spent his summers at Camp Ramah in the Berkshires.

Shaya loves working at Ramah, where he gets to integrate Judaism into everyday life, and have an impact on his campers’ Jewish journeys. He went to the University at Buffalo, where he majored in History and was an active member at the Hillel of Buffalo. During his free time, you can find Shaya training to run in his second NYC Marathon. He loves playing basketball, listening to Bruce Springsteen, and watching the Jewish comedy duo, Jake and Amir. Shaya is excited to join the team at Tulane Hillel as the Ezra Fellow, and he can’t wait to explore New Orleans!
Solomon Zisser (he/him)
Ezra Jewish Education Fellow, Hillel at the University of Rochester

Born and raised in White Plains, New York, Solomon moved to Carlisle, Pennsylvania for college, graduating from Dickinson College with a B.A. in Judaic Studies and Theatre Arts (Design and Technology) in May 2020. At Dickinson, he spent much of his time involved with Dickinson’s Hillel, holding a position on the board and working at the Asbell Center for Jewish Life. When not doing activities related to Hillel, Solomon spent his time working in the scene shop building sets and rigging lights for theatrical productions and devising works of puppetry with faculty and peers.

He also taught Hebrew School at Beth El Temple of Harrisburg, and had the opportunity spent a semester abroad in Jerusalem his junior year. Solomon has been attending Camp Ramah in Berkshires, one of his many favorite places, for most of his life, most recently working there for portions of the past six summers. Solomon is excited to bring his passion for Judaism, and for meeting new people to his new role as the Ezra Jewish Education Fellow at Hillel at the University of Rochester!

Talia Cantor
Social Justice Fellow, Baruch College Hillel

Coming soon...
Springboard Fellowship
Cohort Vav Who’s Who

The Fellows

Wendy Starr (she/her)
Innovation Fellow, Hillel at Virginia Tech

Wendy grew up in Northern New Jersey before attending Michigan State University where she majored in Special Education, Elementary Education and Mathematics and minored in Leadership of Organizations. At Michigan State, she spent her time involved with Michigan State Hillel and the Student Council for Exceptional Children, a group supporting special needs programming in the Greater Lansing Area. At Michigan State Hillel, Wendy held a variety of roles including Jewish Student Union President, David Project Intern, and the Jewish Student representative to the Council of Racial and Ethnic Students and the Council of Progressive Students. Here, she found her passion for community building, Israel, and developing innovative ways to live an enriching Jewish life on campus. Through the Student Council for Exceptional Children, she was able to support a variety of special needs events in the community including her two favorites, A Night to Shine, a prom for teens and young adults with special needs, and Playtime Pals, a monthly playgroup for children with down syndrome. She also enjoys baking and talking about her favorite food, pickles! Wendy is so excited to meet students and further strengthen the Jewish community at Virginia Tech by building a community where all students feel welcomed, heard, and included.

Zoe Levine (she/they)
Social Justice Fellow, Oberlin College Hillel

Originally from Erie, Pennsylvania, Zoe Levine graduated from Chatham University in Pittsburgh, with a Bachelor of Arts in History and Political Science, double minors in French and Theatre Production, and an International Certificate: European Concentration. Zoe believes that social justice and advocacy are linked in totality with Jewish values, which has guided her experience growing up and into her undergraduate program. While at Chatham, Zoe worked to amplify marginalized student voices and strongly advocated for student leadership through serving as Co-President for Chatham Student Power and Artistic Director for Chatham Drama Club. She also participated in Chatham’s Honors Program, Chatham Choir, Jewish Student Association, and Hillel JUC.

Zoe’s passions lie in advocating and organizing to bring community justice to the forefronts of discussions. Zoe interned with Pittsburgh City Council and spent time working with the Mayor’s Office of Pittsburgh where she put together policy initiatives for the LGBT+ Commission. She also served with Repair the World Pittsburgh’s Serve the Moment Cohort to address issues exasperated by COVID-19. Through her studies and various internships, including at The Holocaust Center of Pittsburgh, Zoe realized that by studying the past we can make sure to address human rights issues in today’s world.

Outside of her professional life Zoe loves to cook, read, go hiking, do yoga, and travel. Zoe is extremely excited to step into her role at Oberlin Hillel as the Social Justice Fellow and cannot wait to help provide intersectional and inclusive spaces and programming for Oberlin students.