2024 Charles Bronfman Conveners Cohort

Laura E. Adkins is an award-winning writer based in New York and a senior director at Jewish Women International, working to combat gender-based violence and advance economic justice and women's leadership. She is also a volunteer mentor-editor for the OpEd project and serves on the New York board of IPF Atid. Previously, Laura was the opinion editor of the Forward, an adjunct instructor of journalism at Yeshiva University's Stern College, an inaugural member of the Shalom Hartman journalism cohort, the opinion editor of the Jewish Telegraphic Agency, the editor of Jewish Insider, and an assistant blogs editor at The Times of Israel. Her work on antisemitism, Orthodox Judaism, Israel, data, and gender issues has appeared in The Washington Post, The New York Times, NPR, the Los Angeles Review of Books, Glamour, Fox News, and other outlets.

Marc Ashed is the assistant vice president of external affairs and director of government relations at the Jewish Federation of Cleveland. Prior to joining the Jewish Federation, Marc worked for the previous eight years in AIPAC's Midwest office, serving the last four years as regional political director. In that role, he was responsible for creating and implementing political strategy across 89 Congressional districts and nine states, including Ohio covering 107 Members of Congress. At the Federation, he is responsible for the government relations portfolio, providing leadership for the Community Relations Committee and directing the Federation's strategy to combat antisemitism. Marc attended Rider University in New Jersey, graduating with honors in political science. In 2015, he completed a master's degree in global security studies from Johns Hopkins University.

Kyle Brill is a Toronto-based design and real estate development professional with a broad range of expertise, from product design to complex urban projects. He earned both a Master of Architecture with commendation and an Honours Bachelor of Architectural Studies, co-op, with distinction from the University of Waterloo. His master's thesis, "States of Dependency: Infrastructures of the Common," examined how urban design in Jerusalem is influenced by the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, exploring the connection that urban development has with statecraft and conflict management in a post 1967 context. The research, which received the OAA Guild Medal for Outstanding Architectural Design, proposed design approaches to foster political dialogue in divided communities.
Kyle's work reflects his belief in the interconnectedness of architecture, development, and social dynamics, emphasizing how urban design can facilitate political dialogue and societal change. His approach integrates advanced design knowledge with strategic and operational management to address complex challenges in the built environment.

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Havi Carrillo-Klein is a passionate social impact organizer and consultant focused on antisemitism, racism, and the intersections of systems of oppression. As the Religious Action Center's Ohio organizer, Project Shema's community engagement manager, and in her independent consultancy, Havi spends her time deep in the trenches of the key issues impacting American Jewish communities today. While studying environmental justice and Jewish studies at Oberlin College, Havi built an on-campus initiative to tackle the toxic polarization arising from the campus conversation on Israel and Palestine. After finishing her undergraduate degree, Havi continued constructing and executing learning cohorts and international travel delegations in her role at Cambridge Heath Ventures, a small consulting firm focused on social impact through bridge-building practices. Between delegations of artists, philanthropists, college students, corrections officers, labor leaders, and more, Havi has worked with a broad range of communities to tackle wedge issues and build strong coalitions of intersecting identities. After working closely with corrections and probation officers for several years on bipartisan criminal justice reform, Havi's work shifted to focus primarily on antisemitism, racism, and the way Israel and Palestine appear as a roadblock in progressive coalitions in the United States.

Danielle Cohen currently serves as the assistant director for policy and advocacy at the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations. Previously, she worked as a senior research analyst in AIPAC's Policy and Government Affairs Department. Danielle received her master's degree in international peace and conflict resolution from American University. Prior to moving to Washington, D.C., Danielle worked in the local and state government in her hometown of Seattle, Washington.

Eden Rachel Cohen is the founder and president of A Wider Frame, a digital media company delivering quick, easy, and comprehensive Jewish and Israel-related news. Thousands of young Jews rely on A Wider Frame as a trusted information source. Soon, Eden will begin her new role as head of social media and website at Opendor Media. Previously, she served as a senior advisor to Former Special Envoy Noa Tishby, playing a pivotal role in advancing Israel's foreign policy on antisemitism. In this capacity, Eden developed strategies for complex diplomatic projects and led global initiatives to combat antisemitism. With a deep understanding of issues facing Jews worldwide, Eden is a sought-after speaker and educator, regularly addressing audiences at Jewish organizations and schools nationwide. She holds a Juris Doctor degree from Southwestern Law School and a Bachelor of Science from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Before her work with Special Envoy Tishby and A Wider Frame, Eden was a practicing entertainment attorney in Los Angeles.

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Maggie Feldman-Piltch is a global fellow at the Wilson Center's Science and Technology Innovation Program. She covers national security and defense, with a particular emphasis on making both make sense in the real world and is the founder of #NatSecGirlSquad. Maggie is working on her first book, Non-State Actress: National Security But Not Boring, which embraces pop culture to make national security interesting, accessible, and relevant to American women. She lives with her family in D.C., is awkwardly new to 'professional' Jewish circles, and was a born and raised Reconstructionist.

Gavriela Geller von Ende is an executive leader focused on strategic impact, advocacy, and communications in the fight against antisemitism and anti-Israel bias. As the executive director of the Jewish Community Relations Bureau|AJC in Kansas City, Gavi tripled the size of the organization, secured crucial legislative wins for the Jewish community, built out new educational initiatives, and led the organization through a strategic planning process. Gavi is passionate about smaller Jewish communities throughout America and has been a leading voice on rural antisemitism. JCRB|AJC recently welcomed the Second Gentleman of the United States to Kansas City for the first-ever regional summit on combating antisemitism in the heartland. Gavi was recently honored with the 2024 FBI Director's Community Leadership Award for her coalition-building efforts to combat hate and extremism. She is a graduate of the Wexner Field Fellowship, and holds an M.A. in Jewish cultural arts from George Washington University. Her wife Sam von Ende (IPF Atid '20) was named by Hadassah as one of "18 America Zionist Women You Should Know" in 2024; they were recently recognized as "a married couple at the forefront of fighting antisemitism."

Dr. Haisam Hassanein is an adjunct fellow at the Foundation For Defense of Democracies, where he analyzes Israel's relations with Arab states and Muslim countries. Previously, he was a research fellow at the Washington Institute, where he focused on Egyptian-Israeli relations and U.S. policy toward the Middle East. He has been published in The Wall Street Journal, New York Post, Foreign Affairs, The National Interest, the Hill magazine, the New York Daily News, and The Jerusalem Post, to name a few. Hassanein earned his M.A. in Middle Eastern and African history from Tel Aviv University. He was the first Egyptian to be named a graduate school valedictorian by an Israeli academic institution. Haisam knows Hebrew, Arabic, and English.

Brandon Hoffman works in strategy and operations at DoorDash, where he is building their AI business in North America. Prior to DoorDash, Brandon graduated from Ohio State, where he received a B.S. in finance and worked in various commercial real estate roles in New York and Los Angeles before attending Columbia Business School. Outside of professional interests in AI and real estate, Brandon is a highly sought-after DJ, having worked with brands like Equinox, St. Regis Hotels, and Meta. He also frequently organizes Shabbat dinners in and around New York City.

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Jacob Kwasman began his political career as a field director, working on both the special and general election congressional campaigns in a hotly contested Arizona race. In 2019, he relocated to Washington, D.C., to join Senator Cantwell's press team on Capitol Hill. He then shifted his career trajectory to issue advocacy, focusing his efforts on matters of personal significance. In 2021, Jacob joined the Congressional Advocacy team at American Jewish Committee (AJC), where he focuses on developing and expanding inter-group and interfaith partnerships between Jewish Americans and other minority groups, believing that working together is the only way to make meaningful progress. In the wake of the October 7 terrorist attacks, Jacob and AJC's congressional team have been actively engaged in championing the cause of those held hostage, facilitating more than 300 meetings with their loved ones and Members of Congress, diplomatic partners, federal agencies, and members of the Administration, advocating for their expeditious return, and ensuring that those still held in captivity are not forgotten.

Moshe Lencer, aka Moosh, is an Israeli native who moved to the U.S. in 2015 and joined ΑΕΠ. He holds a degree in government from the Interdisciplinary Center Herzliya and master's degrees in Jewish education from Hebrew University and Israel experiential education from George Washington University. After moving to Ann Arbor in 2020 with his partner Sarah, Moosh actively engaged in Michigan's Jewish community, volunteering for various organizations. His 5.5-year journey at AEPi culminated in the role of director of Jewish enrichment and education. Currently, Moosh is the director of campus affairs at AJC, focusing on Israel education and community partnerships while consulting for multiple Jewish organizations.

Nate Looney is Jewish Federations of North America's director of community safety and belonging on the Jewish Equity, Diversity and Inclusion ("JEDI") Team. He is an American Jewish University alum, social entrepreneur, diversity strategist, U.S. Army Veteran, and Urban Farmer. In 2005, Hurricane Katrina struck, and Nate became a vital part of rescue efforts and earned the Army's Meritorious Service Medal. In 2015, Nate graduated from American Jewish University with his B.A. in business. Currently, Nate enlists his multidisciplinary experience to build community and effect change in the fields of safety and security, antisemitism, LGBTQ+ inclusion, and community building. Nate is a Jeremiah fellow and an alum of several Jewish leadership programs, including Bend the Arc Selah and A Wider Bridge. He is also a Wexner Field fellow and serves as a board member at several Jewish nonprofit organizations.

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Joshua Losner is the director of the Hillel International Israel Leadership Network (ILN). In this capacity, Joshua leads several Zionist and Israel-focused student leadership initiatives, notably the Hillel International Israel Summit and Content Creators Forum. Prior to this role, Joshua worked in Hillel's Israel Action Program and was responsible for cultivating relationships with professionals at 100 small campus Hillels. Before joining the Hillel International professional staff, Joshua worked as a senior national field organizer and early engagement director at American Israel Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC). Throughout the course of Joshua's career, he is extraordinarily fortunate to have interacted with several Jewish community and Israel-oriented organizations, Hillel International being one of the most influential and significant. Given the current climate for the Jewish people and Israel, especially college students, Joshua feels a deep personal responsibility to help students find and preserve their connection to Zionism and the Jewish people.

Rabbi Steven Philp is the associate rabbi of Mishkan, a spiritual community in Chicago reclaiming Judaism's transformative essence. Steven was ordained in 2019 by the Jewish Theological Seminary and was a recipient of the Wexner Graduate Fellowship. Steven also received his M.St. in Jewish studies from the University of Oxford in 2016, his M.Div. and M.S.W. from the University of Chicago in 2014, and graduated summa cum laude from the University of Southern California in 2010, where he received a B.F.A. in studio art and a B.A. with honors in english (creative writing) and international relations. He currently serves on the board of the Jewish Council on Urban Affairs, is a fellow with the Chicago Commons Project, and is part of the inaugural class of the Interfaith Leadership Network with the Interfaith Alliance. He was formerly a Rukin rabbinic fellow with 18Doors. Steven grew up in California and Hawaii as a Roman Catholic with a strong Methodist heritage. He became passionate about interfaith work while in college, a path that eventually led him to become part of the Jewish community. Steven lives in Boystown with his partner and their cat, Miso.

Kevin Rachlin serves as the inaugural Washington director at Nexus Leadership Project with over a decade of experience in U.S.-focused advocacy and nonprofit leadership. Kevin previously served as the vice president of public affairs at JStreet and as the U.S. director for the Alliance for Middle East Peace, a coalition of 150+ Israeli and Palestinian peacebuilding organizations. He is currently a senior fellow for Israel and Palestine policy at the Alliance of Peacebuilding. Kevin and his wife live in Fairfax, VA, with their two daughters.

Ethan Ramer serves as the senior officer of public affairs at the Consulate General of Israel to the Midwest. Prior to the Consulate, he spent three years as a senior consultant at FTI Consulting Strategic Communications. Growing up in northern New Jersey, Ethan fostered strong ties with the Israel advocacy and Jewish communities as the student fundraising director for the University of Michigan Hillel and as a Diller Teen Fellow. Ethan holds a B.A. in public policy and a minor in business from the University of Michigan and lives with his partner, Robby, in downtown Chicago.

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Rabbi Isaiah Joseph Rothstein serves as rabbinic scholar and public affairs advisor at Jewish Federations of North America and is the rabbi at the Greenpoint Shul in Brooklyn, NY. Isaiah has served as rabbi-in-residence at Adamah, Isabella Freedman, and Be'chol Lashon. He also served as rabbi for youth at Carmel Academy, Young Israel of Stamford, NCSY, and Camp Yavneh. Isaiah studied at Kushner Yeshiva High School, Lev HaTorah, Machon Lev, and Binghamton University, and received rabbinic ordination and a master's degree in social work from Yeshiva University. Raised in a multi-racial Chabad family from Monsey, NY, he sees himself as a human bridge, connecting disparate parts of the Jewish community and America.

Michelle Schein serves as a political appointee in the Biden-Harris administration in the Secretary's Office of Global Women's Issues at the U.S. Department of State, where she is responsible for advancing gender equality policy priorities on Capitol Hill. Before being appointed to the Biden-Harris Administration, Michelle served as senior foreign policy advisor in the Office of Congresswoman Grace Meng, vice ranking member of the House Appropriations Committee, and a member of the State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs Subcommittee, where she handled foreign affairs, defense, and healthcare. In her role as senior foreign policy advisor, Michelle spent much of her time focused on women and girls and advancing the U.S.-Israel relationship. Michelle successfully increased funding by $75 million to implement the U.S. strategy to prevent and respond to gender-based violence globally and maintained bipartisan support for the $3.8 billion in security assistance to Israel. Previously, Michelle served as a legislative assistant in the Office of Congressman Brad Sherman, a member of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, where she handled foreign affairs, defense, choice, and environment issues. Michelle also previously served as a staff associate on the House Foreign Affairs Asia, Pacific, and Nonproliferation Subcommittee under the Chairmanship of Congressman Brad Sherman. Before coming to Capitol Hill, Michelle worked for the Rhode Island Democratic Party, helping elect Democratic candidates up and down the ticket in Rhode Island. Michelle is a graduate of Brown University and received her M.A. in defense and strategic studies from the United States Naval War College in Newport, RI.

Deryn Abra Sousa currently serves as the regional political director in AIPAC's Texas office, where she leads AIPAC's political work throughout the Southwest region. A former Middle East analyst, Deryn has worked on issues including Hezbollah, Iran, Lebanon, and Syria. Prior to that, she worked for the Department of Defense's Defense Security Service in Atlanta. Deryn earned her B.A. in Arabic language and literature, as well as her B.A. in international affairs from The University of Georgia.

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Marla Topiol is an engaging educator, passionate historian of Jewish history, community builder, and world traveler. She loves to build communities, discuss intersectional issues, and connect people to their passions. Her background is in Jewish identity work, Israel and Jewish education, and youth leadership. She received her undergraduate degree in history from the College of Charleston and her master's degree in European Jewish history from Queen Mary University of London. Marla is currently the director of Israel engagement and adult education at the Jewish Federation of Palm Beach County (FL). When she is not working, Marla can be found searching for the best nachos, in a fitness class, or visiting an obscure Jewish historical site.

Eva Wyner grew up in the Philadelphia suburbs and earned a dual bachelor's degree in modern Jewish studies in the joint program with Columbia University and the Jewish Theological Seminary. After graduating college, Eva joined the campaign trail, first as a founder of Jews 4 Joe, and then formally as a field organizer for the Biden campaign in Pennsylvania. After the 2020 election, Eva continued her career in politics as Tali Farhadian Weinstein's Jewish outreach director for the Manhattan District Attorney. Eva currently serves as Governor Kathy Hochul's deputy director of Jewish affairs. Eva is passionate about fostering intentional communities. Last summer, Eva founded New York Jews in Politics, which brings together Jewish government staffers and the wider pool of Jewish advocates & politicians for happy hours and other social events to build community and network. Outside of the political realm, Eva serves as a chair of the Upper East Side's Holy Hour Happy Hour, a weekly davening and happy hour, which attracts hundreds of young Jews each week.

Erin Zaikis is a serial entrepreneur, having started RISE, an incubator for female public health entrepreneurs in 13 countries in Africa and Asia. She also started Sundara, a nonprofit which recycled two million bars of hotel soap across India, Uganda, and Myanmar, providing fair wage employment for 40 women. Erin is a Forbes 30 Under 30 (2018) and winner of the Summit Series Impact Fellowship. Erin was the CEO of IsraAID U.S., where she managed a $10 million aid program focused on disaster relief projects and led humanitarian aid missions to Nepal, Kenya, Greece, Houston, and Texas. She is a graduate of the University of Michigan, and is based between New York and Martha's Vineyard. She's also a board member of the Joint Distribution Committee.

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Nicole Zion brings over a decade of diverse experience in technology, cybersecurity, intelligence, policy analysis, and leadership roles. She is currently an international public affairs advisor at APCO Worldwide in Washington, D.C., where she helps clients navigate complex geopolitical environments to mitigate business risks, identify opportunities, and develop resilient stakeholder relationships. Before joining APCO, Nicole worked at Booz Allen Hamilton, where she designed wargames and exercises to enhance cyber resilience in critical infrastructure, particularly within the financial services and defense sectors. She previously served as a national security analyst with a focus on humanitarian and sustainable development issues, including disruptive technology. Her portfolio consisted of disaster relief, durable solutions for displaced populations, and food security in the Middle East and Sub-Saharan Africa. Nicole holds a master's degree in public policy in international security and economic policy and a B.A. in government and politics, with a minor in international development and conflict management from the University of Maryland.