

קרן תקווה  
TIKVAH

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TIKVAH

2021

Tikvah Summer Fellowship

## BIO

Judah Fortgang, a New Rochelle native, is a senior at Yeshiva University where he studies Torah and Western thought. At Yeshiva, Judah is board member for the Alexander Hamilton Society, a club dedicated to launching its members into careers in foreign policy imbued with the Hamiltonian vision of strong and principled American leadership. Judah has spent numerous past summers at the Tikvah Fund, as a seminar participant and as an advisor for the High School program.

## TEACHING THE HEBRAIC SPIRIT IN AMERICA

Judah is building and expanding the curriculum for Tikvah's "Truman Scholars" course, *The Hebraic Spirit in America*. Designed for Jewish middle and high school students, the goal of this course is to explore how ideas from the Hebrew Bible and other Jewish sources contributed to the American mind, imagination, and project. This course will draw on under-explored Hebraic sources and merge the often disconnected Judaic and General studies departments in Jewish day schools to study a more unified view of American history.

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*Judah Fortgang*

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# Judah Fortgang

YESHIVA UNIVERSITY



01



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# Alexandra Fraser

BARD COLLEGE

02



## BIO

Alexandra (Sasha) Fraser is from Woodstock, New York and is currently a rising sophomore at Bard College. She participated in the Maimonides Scholars Program in 2019, and took multiple classes through the Tikvah Online Academy in 2020. She plans to major in chemistry or physics, and she has a deep interest in history and literature. From 2015-2020, she co-taught Judaic Studies in the Congregation Emanuel religious school with concentrations on photography, Jewish history, and Jewish culture. She is currently active in the Jewish Student Organization at Bard. Last year she worked on a research paper studying the spread of COVID-19 on small college campuses. In the last academic year and the beginning of the summer, she worked on water testing in the lab on campus and plans to continue that work this fall. In the spring, she was also a Community Science Lab Intern.

## WATER TECHNOLOGY IN ISRAEL: INNOVATION AND DIPLOMACY

Sasha is interested in the development of technology and its impact in Israel. Her project has two separate parts. The first part includes working with Dan Senor and Saul Singer on their upcoming book, a follow-up to Start-Up Nation. The second part involves writing an article, based on reading and interviews, that investigates water usage and technology in the context of Israel's history and contemporary political situation. The article explores the water technologies which have been employed in Israel. The goal of this article is to investigate and demonstrate how Israel's success with water technology benefits Israel both internally and its relationships with other countries.

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*Alexandra Fraser*

## BIO

David Frisch is a master's student studying Political Theory on a Barry Scholarship at the University of Oxford. David graduated *summa cum laude* and Phi Beta Kappa from Duke University with a BA in Political Science and minors in History and Religion; he was also named an Angier B. Duke Scholar. During his undergraduate years, David completed additional coursework in political theory at New College, Oxford, and in the history of political thought at Pembroke College, Cambridge. David's core research has treated child protection and family law as his primary case study for the critical importance of religious and cultural toleration. He volunteered both as a courthouse childcare specialist and for three years as a court advocate for survivors of domestic violence. Thanks to two grants from Duke University, he has done work on this topic in U.S. courthouses, at historical archives in Spain, and as an invited Visiting Researcher at the Monash University Law Faculty in Melbourne, Australia. David also serves as the Oxford Jewish Society's first postgraduate representative, as a member of the Oxford University Chabad Society, and as the alumni representative on Pittsburgh's Diller Teen Fellows Advisory Board.

## TAKING CARE OF THE RELATIONAL HEALTH OF CHILDREN

David is writing an article on the importance, fragility, and unfortunate decline of children's relational health. Relational health, as he explores, refers to the extent to which children have stable relationships with caring, reliable, adult mentors. Those relationships can involve parents, aunts and uncles, rabbis, neighbors, or others. After exploring the importance, fragility, and decline of children's relational health, David's article will explore post-war developments that discouraged relational health. Emphasis on parents' individual autonomy and government's insistence on being the entity to guarantee children's material wellbeing are partly to blame. In the final section of David's article, he will hint at several policy approaches relating to religious liberty, school choice, and family law that would stem from properly respecting relational health. Core to David's research is the finding that religious communities are uniquely well-suited to support children's relational health.

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*David Frisch*

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# David Frisch

UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD



03



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# Daniel Gottesman

YESHIVA UNIVERSITY

04



## BIO

Daniel Gottesman grew up in Lincolnwood, IL where he attended Ida Crown Jewish Academy. After graduation he studied at Yeshivat Hakotel in the Old City of Jerusalem as well as served in the Givati Brigade in the IDF. Daniel graduated from Yeshiva University in May 2020 with a Bachelors in Jewish History. He is now receiving rabbinic ordination from RIETS as well as pursuing a Masters in Judaic Studies.

## WHERE WAS GOD? A NEW LOOK AT HOLOCAUST THEOLOGY

Daniel is writing an article that surveys various attempts by constructive theologians to face the challenge of the Holocaust. How did great thinkers like Eliezer Berkowitz, Emil Fackenheim, Joseph Soloveichik and others, grapple with its broad impact and immense implications? Through exploring how the great thinkers dealt with the Holocaust's implications, Daniel will try to give his readers a better understanding of Holocaust study and education in our own times.

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*Daniel Gottesman*

## BIO

Thomas Getman is from New York City and is a rising junior at Emory University, double majoring in business administration and philosophy, politics, and law. He attended the Hotchkiss School, a boarding school in Lakeville, CT, for high school. At Emory, he is very involved in Jewish Life, serving as his fraternity's Jewish Life Chair and President of EIPAC (Emory Israel Public Affairs Committee). He is interested in how groups can combat antisemitism both legally and socially. He plans to attend law school after his undergraduate education.

## THE DURBAN CONFERENCE AND ANTISEMITISM

Thomas has partnered with the Combat Antisemitism Movement (CAM) to conduct research and execute an advocacy plan surrounding the 2001 World Conference Against Racism (otherwise known as the Durban Conference) and its 20th anniversary celebration upcoming in September 2021.

Although the infamous UN General Assembly Resolution 3379, which stated, "Zionism is racism," was revoked in 1991, its effects are still felt today. The Durban conference in 2001 reinstated the libel of UNGA Resolution 3379 by perverting international human rights laws and practicing severe historical revisionism. Durban perpetuates the delegitimization of Israel and foments contemporary forms of antisemitism under the guise of human rights while operating under the protective cover of the United Nations.

On August 3rd, Thomas will be moderating a webinar as part of the advocacy plan. This webinar will examine the history of the antisemitic Durban Conference, how to defend against contemporary forms of antisemitism, and how to encourage those countries who have adopted IHRA's definition to boycott and speak out against the UN's commemoration of the 20th anniversary of the Durban Conference, or Durban IV.

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*Thomas Getman*

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# Thomas Getman

EMORY UNIVERSITY



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# Yehuda Goldberg

YESHIVA UNIVERSITY



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## BIO

Yehuda Goldberg is a rising senior at Yeshiva University, where he studies philosophy. He is also a Straus Scholar at the Straus Center for Torah and Western Thought. Prior to studying at YU, he spent two years at Yeshivat Har Etzion. He is interested in the intersection of theology and political philosophy and the role that the careful study of rabbinic texts can play in shaping Jewish thought. After completing Yeshiva University, he hopes to continue his studies in a graduate school and at RIETS.

## PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Yehuda's project involved the consideration of contemporary Charedei thought within the context of "modern Jewish thought." In recent years, many anthologies, books, and essays on modern Jewish thought have been written. In these works, one might find many 20th century thinkers, each with a unique theology. These thinkers cover a vast range of ideologies and movements and yet Charedei thinkers are usually ignored. These figures are often considered less systematic thinkers and their focus on authority, Jewish tradition, and the centrality of Torah study is often derided as a reactionary worldview. Yehuda's reading and work will hopefully show that theological works by Charedei thinkers are worthy of further consideration, that understanding their often-rich theology helps us understand their community, and that bringing their work and thought into conversation with other modern Jewish thinkers benefits the field of Jewish thought as a whole.

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*Yehuda Goldberg*

## BIO

Avi Koenig is currently a rising sophomore at Queens College studying History. At Queens, Avi is Treasurer of the Hillel Club as well as a writer and editor for The Knight News, the Queens College student newspaper. Outside of school, in the Summer of 2020, Avi participated in the Simon Wiesenthal Center's Government Advocacy Internship working in the office of former New York State Assemblyman Walter Mosley. In the Summer of 2019, Avi participated in the Tikvah Scholars Program, and this past year, was a participant in the Tikvah Collegiate Forum. After graduation, Avi will probably go to graduate school but is still exploring life and figuring out where his academic career will take him.

## AN EMERGING VOICE IN THE AMERICAN PUBLIC SQUARE: BUILDING MEIRSOLOVEICHIK.COM

Rabbi Meir Soloveichik is one of America's preeminent rabbis, uniquely melding traditional Torah thought with his encyclopedic knowledge of Western history, thought, and culture. Over the course of the COVID-19 pandemic, Rabbi Soloveichik has seen his prominence grow (even?) further through several wildly popular Zoom lecture series which introduced thousands to his work. To capitalize on this new and enlarged audience, Tikvah intends to launch MeirSoloveichik.com in the Fall of 2021. This website will be a central online repository for the writings, lectures, and ideas of Rabbi Soloveichik and will facilitate the exposure of Rabbi Soloveichik's thought to an even broader audience.

Avi's work this summer has centered around working on two initiatives that are part of the effort to kickstart the site's launch; first, Avi has been working on expanding Rabbi Soloveichik's new Bible 365 podcast into a resource for high school and college students and teachers to use as the basis for their own "Tanach Yomi" (daily Bible study) study groups. This entailed writing detailed summaries for the podcast episodes, collecting the significant source materials Rabbi Soloveichik cites, and adding guiding questions to use in discussion; ~~second, Avi has created a study guide for Rabbi Soloveichik's upcoming Jews and the Civil War course, which will be the latest edition to Tikvah's online courses library. The study guide contains summaries and discussion questions for each lecture, as well as selected primary sources, key concepts, and a "further~~

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# Avi Koenig

QUEENS COLLEGE



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# Kennedy Lee

HIGHER SCHOOL OF ECONOMICS

08



## BIO

Kennedy Lee is a student in the Comparative Politics of Eurasia Master's program at the Higher School of Economics in St. Petersburg, Russia. She is a native of Fennimore, Wisconsin and holds a BA in Russian Language & Civilization and Political Science from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Following graduation, she spent an academic year studying in the Russian Flagship Overseas Capstone Program in Almaty, Kazakhstan. She has held multiple leadership positions with Passages Israel and summer seminar fellowships with the Hertog Foundation, Tikvah Fund, and the American Enterprise Institute. Kennedy is currently a research associate at the Institute on Religion and Democracy in Washington, DC, and her writings can be found in publications such as *The Bulwark*, *New Eastern Europe*, *Providence*, and *Real Clear Religion*.

## PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Kennedy is researching the evolving relationships between Israel and the countries of Central and Eastern Europe, specifically the Visegrád nations of Hungary, Poland, Czech Republic, and Slovakia, as well as Austria and Germany. Specifically, under the guidance of Robert Nicholson, she is paying special attention to the role that religious Christians play in these growing relations. Kennedy has written a white paper for the Philos Project which provides empirical evidence for growing relations between Israel and these CEE countries, including UN and EU parliament votes, as well as official state visits, trade deals, conferences, partnerships, and tourism figures between the countries. Moreover, the white paper highlights specific Christian congregations and clergymen in the region who have made strengthening relations between Israel and their respective country a priority. In addition, Kennedy is working on a *Mosaic* article in which she argues that increased partnership between Israel and these CEE countries does have a values-based aspect, specifically in regards to the priorities of these religious Christians.

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*Kennedy Lee*

## BIO

Michael Leff is a student at Johns Hopkins University, where he studies Near Eastern Studies, Natural Sciences, and Philosophy. He is the President of the Israel-Middle East Forum, a non-partisan organization dedicated to understanding the MENA region, analyzing US foreign policy, and advancing human rights. Michael has been a Campus Tikvah Fellow since 2019, and founded and led the Seminar on Statehood and Zionism, a program that promoted discourse on the political theory of statehood and the history of the Zionist project. He is passionate about literature, history, and ethics, is a donor and volunteer with Gift of Life Bone Marrow Registry, and is a member of the Johns Hopkins Interfaith Council. Additionally, Michael is a member of the Spangler Lab, where he conducts research in cancer immunotherapy and osteogenesis.

## PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The rise of tribalism and tribal politics in the United States has engendered profound questions regarding the nature of the American project. Among these, none have been more fundamental than the re-evaluation of the nature and content of American identity, and the associated reassessment of the concepts of patriotism, nationalism, and statehood itself. However, though there has been a marked increase in publications regarding nationalism and statehood, few scholars have seriously grappled with the underlying issues at the intersection of philosophy and political theory, such as the nature of collective agency and rights-bearing collectives. Over the course of the fellowship program, Michael has investigated these questions via recourse to primary source texts, new publications in political theory, and consultation with leading academics. He has begun developing a philosophically robust paradigm that both addresses the core questions of nationalism and statehood and charts a path towards revitalized political and cultural institutions.

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*Michael Leff*

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# Michael Leff

JOHNS HOPKINS UNIVERSITY



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# Noah Marlowe

YESHIVA UNIVERSITY

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## BIO

Noah Marlowe is currently a rabbinical student and Masters candidate at Yeshiva University's Rabbi Isaac Elchanan Theological Seminary and Azrieli Graduate School of Jewish Education and Administration, and is pursuing a certificate in Mental Health Counseling at RIETS/Ferkauf Graduate School of Psychology. At Yeshiva College, Noah received the Prof. David and Sarrah Mirsky Memorial Award for Exemplifying the University's Ideal of Torah Umadda. Noah is an alumnus of the 92nd Street Y Jewish Innovation Fellowship, AIPAC's Leffell Rabbinic Fellowship, and Fuchs-Mizrachi's Beit Midrash Fellowship. In addition, Noah has written for *The Lehrhaus* and *Tradition Online*.

## JEWISH SEXUALITY EDUCATION

Noah is crafting a curriculum for Jewish parents of diverse religious identities and affiliations to teach and talk to their teenagers about sexuality as informed by Jewish tradition. Noah's project explores religious ideas, concepts, and values at the core of Judaism's moral vision of sexuality. Moreover, Noah's curriculum fuses conceptual analysis of ideas with strategic and practical guidance for parent-child dialogue and education around values and sensitive topics.

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Noah Marlowe

## BIO

Maya Moritz is currently completing her M.Sc. in Economics at the University of Mannheim in Germany, where she focuses on economic history. After growing up in Israel and New Jersey, she gained her B.Sc. in Economics at the University of St. Andrews in Scotland. She has presented work on educational attainment in Kyrgyzstan and completed a thesis on German vocational education. She has also served as an editor and writer for the student papers in both universities and assisted with business, political, and economic research for universities and research institutes in Mannheim, St. Andrews, and Toronto. Maya has participated in several programs focusing on Israel and Judaism, including Write on for Israel and internships with JNF and EMET. After graduation, she intends to pursue a PhD in public policy, where she hopes to develop her fellowship project into a thesis.

## PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Maya Moritz's project examines the history and context of Holocaust compensation. Compensation has been paid since the end of WWII with negotiations continuing with governments and private companies to this day. While some writers call for the Holocaust compensation model to be applied to modern minority groups seeking compensation for past persecution, we must first undertake a thorough investigation of the process of negotiations and payments. What were the successes and failures? Who received compensation and how was it allocated? Most importantly, what are the social, economic, and cultural implications of accepting financial support after genocide and persecution? Maya intends to attempt a historically contextualized answer that may bring us closer to looking back... and looking forward.

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*Maya Moritz*

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# Maya Moritz

UNIVERSITY OF MANNHEIM



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# Chaya Sara Oppenheim

BARNARD COLLEGE

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## BIO

Chaya Sara Oppenheim is a senior studying English and history at Barnard College of Columbia University. At Barnard, Chaya Sara is the chief article editor of the English department's literary journal. She also serves as the editor of *The Shekel*, the academic journal of the American Israel Numismatic Association. Her non-fiction and fiction work has been published in *Mishpacha Magazine* and the *Columbia Daily Spectator*. Chaya Sara is passionate about issues regarding the authentic representation of Jewish culture in literature. Her current academic work includes an analysis of how Holocaust diaries serve as primary sources for historical research. After graduating Barnard, Chaya Sara plans to apply to graduate school and pursue a PhD in literature and a career in academia.

## YESHIVISH: A NEW, AUTHENTIC JEWISH LANGUAGE

The best way to represent a community is to note how they represent themselves. Chaya Sara's project focuses on an analysis of the Yeshivish language within the American Jewish Orthodox community in an effort to legitimize and validate this particular mode of communication. She reviewed the academic scholarship and current cultural conversations on the topic, closely read Yeshivish novels and other forms of Yeshivish writing to gain a better grasp of the material, and met with leading thinkers and writers within and outside the yeshivish community to gain their perspective. In her final essay, Chaya Sara's aim is to raise awareness for the rich cultural value of speaking Yeshivish and to show how this vernacular serves as an authentic mode of representation for the entire American Jewish Orthodox community.

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*Chaya Sara Oppenheim*



## BIO

Michael Schwartz is a rising sophomore at Brandeis University, where he is studying politics and economics. He is originally from Newton, MA and attended Maimonides School for 13 years. In 2019, Michael was a Tikvah scholar at Yale and participated in the Tikvah Overseas Institute in 2019-20 as well. At Brandeis, he is a member of the Brandeis Orthodox Organization (BOO) and a writer for the Brandeis Journal of Politics. Michael hopes to go to law school after graduating in 2024.

## JEWS IN THE AMERICAN MILITARY: PAST AND FUTURE

Michael's project is an exploration of the Jewish experience in the American military. By doing extensive research and speaking with Jewish military members and veterans, Michael hopes to develop a clear landscape of the history of and impetus for Jewish participation in the armed forces. The project will hopefully culminate in a published article focused on Orthodox Jewish communities' approach to the military and a syllabus for a day of learning (yom iyun) on the topic led by Tikvah. Michael will also compile a partially annotated bibliography with a wide range of sources which will be accessible to any educator hoping to teach a lesson on Jewish American military history.

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*Michael Schwartz*

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# Michael Schwartz

BRANDEIS UNIVERSITY



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# Hannah Wander

MIDDLEBURY COLLEGE



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## BIO

Hannah Wander, from Highland Park, Illinois is a Junior at Middlebury College studying Political Science with a focus on Political Philosophy. Hannah is a swimmer on the Middlebury Swim and Dive team specializing in breaststroke. She has been active with the Midd Republicans and is a fellow at the Hamilton Forum, an organization that promotes engagement with American political thought and founding principles through dialogue series. In the summer of 2018, Hannah participated in the Maimonides Scholars summer program. Her involvement with Tikvah continued in the summer of 2020 when she participated in the Tikvah Summer Course: Jews and Religious Liberty. Hannah is currently a research assistant for Yehoshua Bedrick at EdChoice. After graduation from Middlebury, Hannah will likely apply to Law School.

## INVESTIGATING HOW AMERICAN JEWS THINK ABOUT RELIGIOUS FREEDOM

For her project, Hannah created a survey to measure views within the Jewish community on religious freedom. She examined the previous polling landscape and determined that most surveys on religious freedom did not survey a sufficiently large and diverse number of Jews to capture the unique aspects of the Jewish community's views on religious freedom or the complicated dynamics within the Jewish community. Hannah used the knowledge of religious freedom she gained through her internship at the Becket Fund to create a survey that would shed light on the different perspectives on important religious freedom issues within the Jewish community.

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*Hannah Wander*

## BIO

Jacob Viviano, a Michigan native, is a recent graduate of the University of Michigan's Gerald R. Ford School of Public Policy, where he studied Foreign Policy and National Security. At Michigan, Jacob was a member of Wolverines for Israel, Young Americans for Freedom, and WeListenUSA. For the past year, Jacob worked for John James on his U.S. Senate campaign in Michigan, serving in various roles for the campaign. The year before, Jacob interned for Quicken Loans Government Affairs in Washington, DC. After graduation in May 2021, Jacob plans to return to Washington DC.

## A STRATEGIC ANALYSIS OF IRANIAN NUCLEAR NEGOTIATIONS

After three months of indirect negotiations in Vienna between the United States and the Islamic Republic of Iran, representatives from both countries have said there are still outstanding issues to be resolved on a potential return to the 2015 Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA). While American negotiators wait until mid-August to resume talks, the prospects of a nuclear deal are shrinking as Iran continues to deploy advanced centrifuges and to enrich uranium at 60% — more than 15 times the purity level provided in the JCPOA. Since 2015, U.S. Senator Tom Cotton has recognized the threat Iran poses to the United States, our closest allies, such as Israel, and the region. This summer, Jacob researched the history of the JCPOA, the US sanctions on Iran's sponsorship of terrorism, and wrote memos for Senator Cotton's office on the current nuclear negotiations. Jacob consulted with numerous Iran analysts, policy experts, and former government officials to create a memo for Senator Cotton on the status of Iran's nuclear program — analyzing the possibilities that American policymakers should be ready for as nuclear negotiations continue.

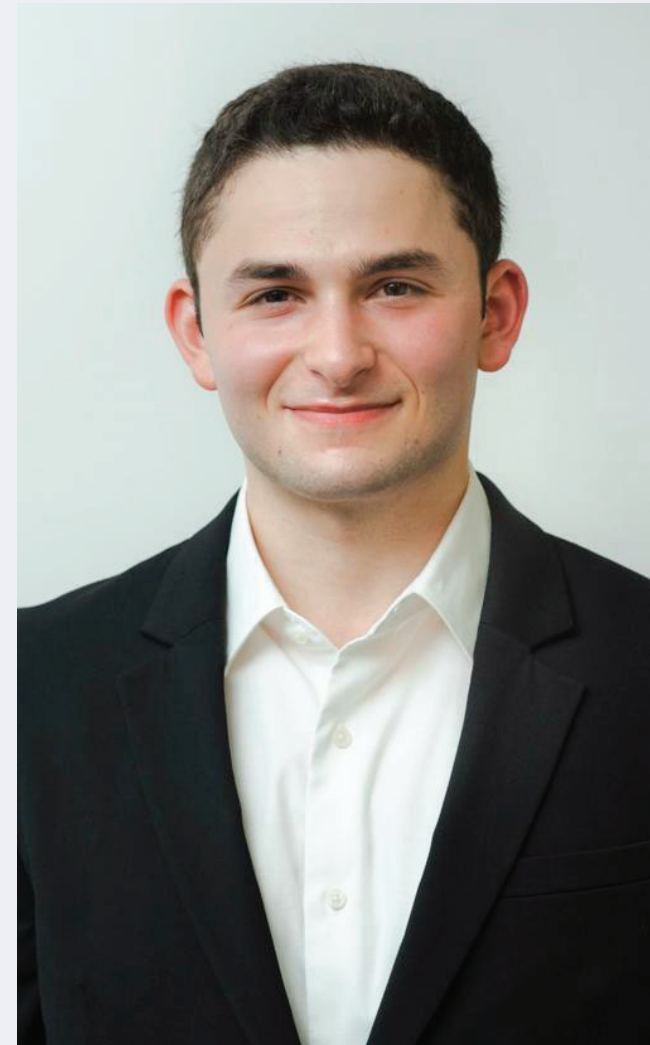
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*Jacob Viviano*

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# Jacob Viviano

UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN



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# Michael Weiner

YESHIVA UNIVERSITY



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## BIO

Michael Weiner is a recent graduate of Yeshiva University, where he majored in political science and Jewish history. During his college career, Michael explored the field of American foreign policy and the Middle East through an editorial internship with *The American Interest* and research internships with scholars at the Hudson Institute. In addition, he has pursued his own freelance writing and translation work by publishing op-eds on politics and Judaism in national outlets and translating Israeli policy articles into English for *Mosaic Magazine*. This summer, Michael served as research assistant to Elliott Abrams, former Special Representative for Venezuela and Iran at the US State Department.

## THE HISTORY AND FUTURE OF US-ISRAEL RELATIONS

This summer, Michael is serving as research assistant to Elliott Abrams for a book project exploring the history and future of US-Israel relations and the changing role American Jews have played within this triangular relationship. From 1948 to the present, a lot has changed — US foreign policy goals, the status and attitudes of the American Jewish community, and the security and economic conditions of the state of Israel. This book will analyze how these historical, cultural, and political trends have fueled the momentous changes that propelled us from a golden age of US-Israel relations and nearly universal American Jewish support for the state to the present day, where Israel is stronger than ever even while American Jews are growing deeply disconnected from Israel. This study will provide a new analytic understanding of how American Jewish identity, remarkable Israeli success, and changing US foreign policy approaches to the region have intersected to create the uncertain future of this special relationship we see today.

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*Michael Weiner*

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