

# SHAPIRO FAMILY FELLOWSHIP CLASS TEN FELLOWS



**TALIA AZOUR** grew up in New York City on the Upper West Side of Manhattan. She holds a dual bachelor's degree in international relations and sociology from Hobart and William Smith Colleges. She currently works as a marketing coordinator at Omnicom Media Group Programmatic, where

she handles all marketing functions across the company's programmatic platform, Accuen, as well as the agency's OMD's, PHD's, and Hearts & Sciences' programmatic divisions.

Talia has much experience internationally and has worked various jobs across the globe. She has spent time working in marketing technology, sports public relations, media planning and strategy, and digital marketing for various companies in Tel Aviv, Israel, London, England, Buenos Aires, Argentina, and Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. Talia also volunteers her marketing expertise to help Many Hopes, a nonprofit organization that rescues children from poverty and abuse and raises them in sustainable environments. Additionally, she has served on the board of two Relay for Life committees and is part of the American Cancer Society, having planned eight of its annual fundraising events.

Talia is hoping that the Shapiro Family Fellowship program will allow her to engage in conversations that she might otherwise not be able to have, amongst peers that might not be as passionate on topics of Israel as she is. The discourse is one she hopes will enhance her perspective and allow her to gain a new understanding from others. She is very much looking forward to the connections she will make and the sustaining relationships she will form with these peers, as well as with UJA-Federation.



**SARAH FELS** grew up in Ridgewood, New Jersey, and in New York City. She graduated with a B.A. from Barnard College of Columbia University in 2016, where she studied psychology and art history. Sarah is currently the program manager in the

National Women's Philanthropy department of the Jewish Federations of North America (JFNA). While at Barnard, she interned at JFNA, the Jewish Museum, and Teri Jon, and participated in the Collegiate Leadership Internship Program (CLIP). She was the co-editor-in-chief of Her Campus Barnard, served on the representative council of the Student Government Association, and was an active member of Sigma Delta Tau of Columbia University.

As a participant in the Shapiro Family Fellowship, Sarah looks forward to strengthening socially progressive Jewish values while advocating in support of the development and protection of Israel. Sarah loves to learn from others and looks forward to many compelling conversations.



**JULIA FUSFELD** is a program manager at the East-West Management Institute, where she oversees international development projects in Central Asia, Eastern Europe, and Southeast Asia, focused on rule of law and governance. Previously, she served as a program assistant

at Democracy International, supporting projects in Afghanistan and the Middle East. Julia has also worked at the Atlantic Council, the U.S. Department of State, and the Israel/Palestine Center for Research and Information. She holds a B.A. in government and Arabic from Dartmouth College, and is proficient in Hebrew, Arabic, and Spanish. She is from Queens, New York.

Outside of work, Julia is an avid traveler and an active member of her community. She is the coordinator for the Board of Directors of Young Professionals in Foreign Policy, a nonprofit organization committed to fostering the next generation of foreign policy leaders. She regularly attends Community Board meetings in Manhattan's Community Board 3 and plans to further her involvement in New York City politics. Julia is looking forward to exploring how Jews in the diaspora and in Israel can work together to solve issues facing Jews worldwide as part of the fellowship class.

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**ZACH GOLDSTEIN** was born in New York City but grew up in Mamaroneck, Westchester. He went to Northwestern University where he studied economics and psychology, and is currently studying for the third level of the CFA program. Zach works as a product manager and data

analyst at Slice, an e-commerce startup that provides independent pizzerias and Italian restaurants with technology to compete with the large chains.

In the community, he co-chairs a Jewish learning series with Rabbi Yehuda of the NYU Hillel, which focuses on the 5 W's (who, what, when, where, why) as they relate to Judaism in New York City. Zach is also a board member of the Hebrew Educational Society (HES), a community center in Brooklyn that helps those in need, embraces diversity, and builds a cordial community. Zach is also in the midst of creating a group of young leaders that focuses on *tikkun olam* DOING for people in their 20s who want to volunteer and meet other Jewish people who have similar interests and intentions.

As part of the fellowship, Zach wants to learn how to best represent Judaism in New York, while balancing different points of views in the midst of current events.



**SPENCER HERBST** looks forward to deepening his relationship with Israel by gaining a better understanding of the many political, economic, and social issues confronting it as well the various ways those issues are understood and interpreted globally. Spencer is keen to

work with his Shapiro cohort and alumni peers to leverage that insight across his various organizational affiliations in New York, where sharing a growing appreciation of Israel is a current activity and a future goal. Spencer grew up in Princeton, New Jersey, and Cincinnati, Ohio. He graduated from Syracuse University in 2014, where he studied finance and anthropology and was active in his fraternity, AEPi.

Currently, he is a marketing campaigns manager with Strategy&, PwC's strategy consulting business, where he leads the firm's signature thought leadership campaigns. He has had his research on innovation

and leadership featured in publications such as *The Wall Street Journal*, *The Economist*, and *Harvard Business Review*.



**JOSH HERMAN** grew up in Oceanside, Long Island, and currently lives on the Upper East Side of Manhattan. He received his B.S. in civil engineering and his M.S. in transportation planning and engineering, both from NYU Polytechnic School of Engineering in Brooklyn, New York.

Josh currently works as a senior transportation engineer at VHB, an engineering consulting firm in New York City. Josh is really passionate about fundraising for FD NOW, a nonprofit organization that funds research for a Jewish genetic disease, Familial Dysautonomia, which his niece lives with. In his office, Josh leads the Green Team, an internal task force that promotes and incorporates sustainability internally and in the projects completed for the communities the company serves. He also leads the NYC Office Fun Committee, which aligns with his core belief in adding a dose of fun and laughter to everything he does.

Josh's desire to improve on and solidify his Jewish identity led him to the Shapiro Family Fellowship, in which he is looking forward to examining and better understanding the connections between Israeli society and American Jews.



**JACQUELINE KELLY** grew up in State College, Pennsylvania – also home to the Penn State Nittany Lions. She attended Penn State for her undergraduate studies, majoring in political science and minoring in business and Jewish studies. She then moved to Israel for her master's degree in political science at Tel Aviv University.

Jacqueline currently works at AIPAC (The American Israel Public Affairs Committee) as the associate director for New Jersey. In this role, she educates New Jersey AIPAC members about the importance of a strong relationship between the United States and Israel.

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Aside from her career, Jacqueline is active with Chabad of the Upper West Side and Jewish Modern Connections, among other organizations. She is committed to fostering a deepened sense of community involvement and engagement about the issues affecting the New York Jewish community and Israel alike.

Jacqueline believes the Shapiro Fellowship will educate her on domestic and international issues within Israeli society, along with those the Jewish community faces at home. She plans to use the knowledge to contribute to building a strong, vibrant, and inclusive Jewish community in and around New York.



**ALEX LASS** grew up in East Brunswick, New Jersey, where he attended East Brunswick High School and was an active member of Congregation Neve Shalom in Metuchen, New Jersey. Alex matriculated at Lehigh University, where he obtained a Bachelor of Science degree in business and

economics, with a double major in accounting and finance. At Lehigh, Alex was the founding president of the Chabad at Lehigh Student Board, where he remains the president emeritus, and is the president of the Alumni Association.

Since graduation, Alex has worked at PwC, where he is a senior associate in the Financial Markets practice, specializing in advisory services and valuation of fixed income products. Alex remains heavily involved with Chabad at Lehigh, and is an American Madrich for Mayanot- Birthright. Alex is excited to engage in complex and meaningful dialogue with a variety of stakeholders regarding the role that American Jews have both in Israel and the diaspora.



**CLAIRE MOSKOWITZ** grew up in Los Angeles, California. She holds a B.A. in interdisciplinary studies from the American University of Rome and an M.A. in global communications from the American University of Paris. Claire is currently the Chairman's Council manager at the New-York Historical Society. As part

of the fellowship year, she looks forward to learning more about the Israeli cultural divide, as well as the role

diaspora Jews ought to play in creating a more unified Israeli society and Jewish world.



**RACHEL SAKS** grew up in Brooklyn, New York. She received her B.A. in psychology from CUNY Queens College and her M.S.Ed. from CUNY Hunter College. She is currently an early childhood special education teacher and works with young children on the autism spectrum on an individual basis. Rachel

serves on the Hillel Young Alumni Board of her alma mater and is deeply involved in the Chabad Young Professionals of the Upper East Side community. Rachel is extremely passionate about building a community, as well as developing meaningful relationships and connecting with others.

Through the Shapiro Family Fellowship, Rachel wants to become a greater advocate and leader for Israel. She wants to challenge preconceived notions about Israel and explore other biases and narratives. She hopes to continue the dialogue that will strengthen the state of Israel and further Jewish involvement.



**ETHAN STEIN** grew up in Manhattan and graduated cum laude from Brandeis University with a B.A. in computer science, film studies, Near Eastern Judaic studies, and an M.A. in computer science. While at Brandeis, he served as president of both the Brandeis Orthodox Organization

and Chabad on Campus. He currently works as a business development manager, North America, at MPP Global -- a software company based in Manhattan.

Ethan is very active in various New York-based Jewish organizations, serving as a co-chair of Chabad on Campus' Junior Board, an Israel Bonds New Leadership Board member, chairman of the Alan T Brown Foundation's Junior Board, and is heavily involved in the Chabad Young Professionals of the Upper East Side community. He is very excited for this incredible opportunity to explore the issues the Jewish community faces and hopes to continue to develop as a leader and as a better advocate through conversations and experiences.

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**DANIELLE TRAUB** is a vice president in wealth management technology at Morgan Stanley, where she focuses on strategic programs and executive communications for the chief operating office of her division. Prior to joining Morgan Stanley, she was the assistant

director of national events at AJC.

Danielle is a graduate of the George Washington University, where she received her B.A. in political science and a minor in Judaic studies. Since graduating G.W. in 2010, Danielle has held several leadership positions in the Jewish community, including chair of JNFuture in Washington, D.C., and vice chair of JNFuture nationally — Jewish National Fund’s young leadership division.

Danielle grew up in Hollywood, Florida, where she attended Hillel Community Day School and participated in several Jewish engagement and young leadership programs, including the March of the Living and Panim el Panim. Danielle is excited to further develop her leadership skills and hear from guest speakers on a wide range of issues spanning Jewish history through contemporary Jewish life as a Shapiro Fellow.



**BRITTANY WENDEL** was raised in Weston, Connecticut, and shaped by her time at the University of Virginia, where she studied American studies and business leadership. She has worked in marketing at PepsiCo since graduation, and is currently a senior marketing analyst

focusing on Lipton Iced Tea. Brittany is excited to continue to grow her Jewish identity as a leader through this Fellowship, in addition to deepening her understanding of the challenges that the global Jewish community faces.



**ALEX ZAFRA** was born in South Florida on a March evening — rudely interrupting his family’s Passover seder in the process. Alex began truly forming his connection to Judaism at age 17, when he traveled to the concentration camps of Poland and experienced Israel for the

first time. His Jewish identity continued to grow as an undergraduate at George Washington University, where he served as a student leader in Chabad on Campus. Alex graduated GWU in 2013 with a Bachelor of Arts in classical studies and joined Bloomberg L.P. in New York shortly thereafter. While at Bloomberg, Alex specialized in commodity market analysis, followed by selling various financial products and technology platforms to large investment institutions across the country. Currently, Alex works at a consulting firm that helps real estate firms procure electricity and manage their energy-related expenses.

Alex adamantly believes “there is no such thing as a finish line” when it comes to improving his Jewish knowledge, giving, and community involvement. He plays an active role in Chabad Young Professionals of the Upper East Side; serves on the Young Leadership Board of the Hebrew Free Loan Society; and participates in the Jewish Board’s Big Brothers Big Sisters program. For Alex, the Shapiro Fellowship is a necessary step towards achieving his life goal: Becoming a prominent Jewish businessman who does great things for world Jewry.