

# SHAPIRO FAMILY FELLOWSHIP



**THE SHAPIRO FAMILY FELLOWSHIP** is a highly selective, yearlong experience designed to cultivate future leaders of the New York Jewish community through high-level discussions with peers, leaders, and mentors in the United States and Israel. The Shapiro Family Fellowship believes that a deepened understanding of the complexities of Israel is key to inspiring future change-makers. The fellowship, conceived and funded by the New York-based Shapiro family, is operated by UJA-Federation of New York.

Candidates for the fellowship must be between 22 and 30 years old, live in the greater New York metropolitan area, and have traveled to Israel at least once prior to application.

## **THE FELLOWSHIP INCLUDES:**

- Yearlong programming that provides meaningful personal and professional development, and a deepened knowledge of Israel, the New York Jewish community, and UJA-Federation of New York.
- A two-week trip to Israel where fellows will explore internal social, economic, and political topics and issues of Jewish identity; connect with Israeli peers; and meet with Israeli professionals from parallel work fields.
- Access to the growing network of Shapiro Family Fellowship alumni and special event opportunities throughout the year.

For specific questions about the fellowship, please contact Shai Kartus at [kartuss@ujafedny.org](mailto:kartuss@ujafedny.org).

# SHAPIRO FAMILY FELLOWSHIP



## A MESSAGE FROM THE SHAPIROS

The Shapiro Family Fellowship is modeled on the experiences of family members who were inspired and invigorated by interactions with Israelis when visiting Israel in their late teens and twenties. Once they had a basic familiarity with Israeli life and culture, they found that subsequent visits could be more direct, revealing, and rewarding.

The centerpiece of the one-year fellowship is a two-week trip to Israel. Fellows meet with national leaders and Israeli peers, professionals, and experts in their chosen careers. Upon their return to New York, fellows take part in exclusive programs and workshops and attend high-profile lectures over the remainder of the fellowship year, which begins in March.

The fellowship experience has evolved as each group of fellows helps shape the program for future classes. The goal of this program is to deepen the fellows' connections to Israel by providing meaningful links to Israelis and Israeli society. Relationships between the fellows and their American and Israeli peers and mentors should support positive social and political interactions, career development, and a deepened commitment to the Jewish community.



# SHAPIRO FAMILY FELLOWSHIP

## SHAPIRO FELLOWSHIP STAFF



### SHAI KARTUS

Shai Kartus is a development associate in the Emerging Leaders & Philanthropists (ELP) Division at UJA-Federation of New York. She graduated from Binghamton University with degrees in human development and Judaic studies in order to pursue her passion of working in the Jewish

community. Alongside her work with the Shapiro Family Fellowship, Shai facilitates ELP's Leadership Labs for leadership development, oversees ELP's Third Generation Holocaust Survivors & Supporters group for Holocaust remembrance and education, and builds a philanthropic community amongst recent college graduates through large-scale events. Originally from New Jersey, Shai is currently an Upper East Side resident who loves spending time with her friends and values Jewish traditions with her family.



### JEREMY LEIGH

Jeremy Leigh has been serving as education consultant for the Shapiro Family Fellowship since 2009. Jeremy was born in London, United Kingdom, and immigrated to Israel in 1992, having completed his undergraduate and graduate studies in Jewish history at University College London and the

Hebrew University of Jerusalem. Over the years, Jeremy has lectured at numerous academic institutions in Jerusalem. He is currently a lecturer in Jewish history and Israel studies at Hebrew Union College in Jerusalem, and the Institute for Youth Leaders from Abroad. Until recently, he taught Israeli cinema at the Rothberg School of the Hebrew University. In 2002, Jeremy founded Jewish Journeys, a project concerned with developing innovative educational travel to Jewish sites in Europe, North Africa, and North America. Parallel to this, he's authored many Jewish travel books, the latest being *Jewish Journeys* and *Jews Must Go: Reflections on the Jewish Grand Tour*. Jeremy lives in Jerusalem, Israel, with his wife and three daughters.

## TESTIMONIALS

Read what past fellows have to say about this one-of-a-kind experience.

*"I have been on two other organized trips to Israel, but the Shapiro Fellowship trip was unlike any other. It was transformative in its ability to present such a nuanced and balanced perspective on Israeli society and I feel incredibly lucky to have had this opportunity."*

— Stella Binkevich, Class Six

*"The Shapiro Family Fellowship opened my eyes to the diversity of culture and responsibility that we share as modern Jews in the diaspora. I will treasure my memories of the experience as well as the relationships that came out of it."*

— Paul Lucas, Class Two

*"The Fellowship was a non-stop journey through the various facets that make up Israeli and Jewish society and culture. It was very exciting to couple that educational experience with professional development, getting to meet with specialists in our respective fields."*

— Jesse Ash, Class Three

*"The Shapiro Fellowship provided me an avenue to engage with the Jewish community, both here and in Israel, in ways I never thought possible. I've challenged my beliefs and developed a more nuanced understanding of the most important issues facing the Jewish people, while building a diverse network of other engaged Jewish professionals who care about those same issues."*

— David Dworin, Class Six