



STEPHEN
WISE TEMPLE



Israel and America 2020:
Spanning the Divide
to Find Common Ground

Sunday, January 26, 2020

*Opening Plenary Sponsored by
Lynn and Les Bider
Jodie and Steven Fishman
Andrea and Glenn Sonnenberg*

*Closing Plenary Sponsored by
Lori and Rob Goodman*



Stephen Wise Temple is excited to host the first Southern California Z3 Conference. In a time of growing disconnect between the American Jewish community and Israel, Z3 provides a means through which the dialogue and mutual interdependence can be strengthened. We are two vibrant centers of Jewish life and our different yet complementary trajectories along the continuum of Jewish living provides each of our communities with strengths and insights that benefit us both. After 71 years of existence, the State of Israel has reached a population of seven million which is roughly equal to the size of the American Jewish community. The dynamic of the movement of immigrants back and forth (by choice) reveals that both nations provide both their Jewish inhabitants with meaningful and secure homes. At the same time, the episodic resurgence of tensions and the associated insecurity reminds us that ultimately we need each other. And yet, Jewish life is not just about responding to threats. Our communities possess vast resources of talent, wisdom, innovation, and are highly educated. We have the capacity to collectively solve the challenges of our world even as we build Jewish life. Z3 is about searching for ways that we can share our strengths, leverage our vast resources, and secure Jewish life for the foreseeable future.



Your presence at this conference means that you share the Z3 vision and our commitment to building Jewish life in Israel and America. We believe that this is the beginning of a dialogue never before experienced in Jewish history and the establishment of a new relationship between the State of Israel and American Jews.

Rabbi Yoshi Zweiback

Rabbi Ron Stern

Let's Connect

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- [WiseLA](https://www.facebook.com/WiseLA)
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About Z3

Operating out of the Oshman Family JCC in Palo Alto, the Z3 Project is the premier conversation about the future of Zionism. For the first time in Jewish history, there is both a strong Jewish Homeland and a strong Jewish Diaspora. This raises fundamental questions about our Jewish future: What will the relationship between these two thriving centers of Jewish life look like? Will there even be an intersection, or will two separate and distinct Jewish cultures develop over the next several generations? The new paradigm for that relationship is **Zionism 3.0**.

The Oshman Family JCC held its first Z3 conversation in 2015. Five years later, the Z3 Conference has become an annual signature event, attracting over 1,100 participants and a range of talented speakers from across the Jewish world. Z3 Conferences cover a broad spectrum of issues with the goal of allowing for a healthier, more balanced and more productive conversation between Diaspora Jewry and Israel.

Today, the Z3 Conference is one component of the Z3 Project—a national initiative aimed at uncovering the essential bonds between Israelis and World Jewry. Based at the Oshman Family JCC in Palo Alto, the Z3 Project works to develop and deliver Z3 Conferences across the country. In addition to the Palo Alto Conference, four major 2020 Z3 events are planned in four different cities across the country.

Z3 Core Principles

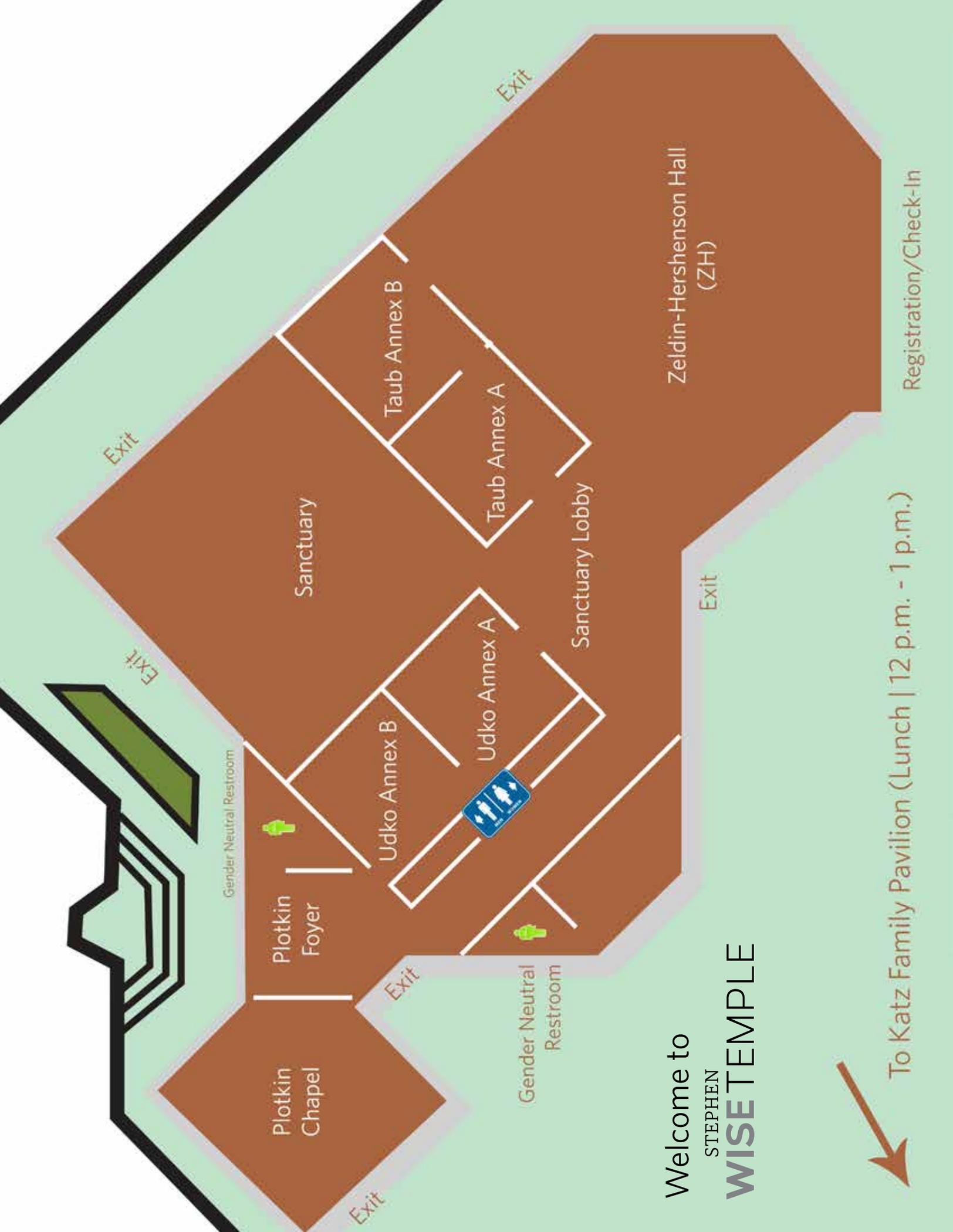
To achieve its goals and to ensure a respectful and engaging experience, the Z3 Conference maintains the following three core principles:

- 1. Unity, Not Uniformity:** The Z3 Project aims to honor our differences while working for the oneness of the Jewish People.
- 1. Engaging as Equal Partners:** The Z3 Project brings together Israelis and Diaspora Jews to build our common future.
- 1. Diversity of Voices:** The Z3 Project convenes Zionists of differing backgrounds and perspectives across the political and religious spectrums.

How You Can Get Involved

You have a stake in the Z3 Project, too. Participate in workshops and events, connect with us online, and help us grow the conversation in your community. For more information, please visit our website www.z3project.org and follow Z3 Project on social media.





Welcome to

STEPHEN

WISETEMPLE

To Katz Family Pavilion (Lunch | 12 p.m. - 1 p.m.)



SCHEDULE



Conference Schedule

9 a.m.

Opening Plenary

Sanctuary

The Z3 Project and Movement: Why It's Important

Zach Bodner (Executive Director, Oshman Family JCC, Z3 Founder), Yehuda Kurtzer (Shalom Hartman Institute), and Sivan Zakai (Hebrew Union College)

Moderator: Ilana Kvartin (Jewish Agency)

- Why does world Jewry need Zionism 3.0?
- What we hope to achieve through this dialogue.
- Why Jewish peoplehood is the organizing principle.
- What are the opportunities (and challenges) presented by the existence of two strong Jewish communities?

Sponsored by Lynn and Les Bider, Jodie and Steven Fishman, and Andrea and Glenn Sonnenberg

10:30 a.m. - 11:45 a.m.

Breakout Sessions

Plotkin Chapel

The Power Dynamic: Influence and Vulnerability

How do Jews wield power? What does it mean to be an influential minority in the world's most powerful nation and a majority in the region's most powerful nation and yet still feel painfully vulnerable? What do the shifting tides of American and Israeli politics mean for Jewish power and vulnerability?

Panelists: Gidi Grinstein (Reut Institute), Chaya Gilboa (Shalom Hartman Institute), Liron Lavi (Y&S Nazarian Center for Israel Studies)

Moderator: Jodi Rudoren (Editor-in-chief, *The Forward*)

Sponsored by The Goldfiner Family

Zeldin-Hershenson Hall

Rising Antisemitism in the U.S. and Globally: Political Contexts, Transformative Solutions

How does the continuing rise of domestic and global antisemitism affect the future of the world Jewish community? What are the root sources and how do we respond? Do we turn inward, building our resistance or turn outward, doubling down on our national and global engagement?

Panelists: Rabbi Aaron Lerner (Executive Director, UCLA Hillel), Charles Levinson (Reuters), Batya Ungar Sargon (Opinion Editor, *The Forward*)

Moderator: David Suissa (Editor in Chief, *The Jewish Journal of Los Angeles*)

Sponsored by Susan and Steven Kay and Julie and Peter Weil

12 p.m. - 1 p.m.

Lunch



1:15 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.

Breakout Sessions

Plotkin Chapel

Democracy and Judaism — Are they Compatible?

Judaism was conceived before the modern democratic state, how does a democratic Israel reconcile its relationship with Jewish identity? The majority of America's Jews seem to have chosen American democracy over Jewish practice, how will it affect the future of American Judaism?

Panelists: Tomer Persico (Shalom Hartman Institute); Jodi Rudoren (Editor-in-chief, *The Forward*), Dani Segal (Shalom Hartman Institute), Yuvi Tashome Katz (social entrepreneur and activist)

Moderator: Joshua Holo (Dean, Hebrew Union College)

Zeldin-Hershenson Hall

The Changing Dialog Between Israeli and American Jews

Judaism was conceived before the modern democratic state, how does a democratic Israel reconcile its relationship with Jewish identity? The majority of America's Jews seem to have chosen American democracy over Jewish practice, how will it affect the future of American Judaism?

Panelists: Gidi Grinstein (Reut Institute); Carly Pildis (Director, Grass Roots Organizing, Zioness), Joshua Weinberg (Executive Director, ARZA)

Moderator: Sivan Zakai (Hebrew Union College)

Sponsored by Shohreh and Peyman Saadat

Udco Annex

There's No Place Like Home

Presentation by Tamar Foreman (Jewish Educator)

Join the high drama created by a series of Israeli television advertisements that take aim at your heart to generate laughter, induce tears, raise questions and even evoke anger. These advertisements serve as a dialogue and a fascinating social document for us to explore the meaning of home and homeland for us today in our own lives, in the past, and for the future of the Jewish people.

2:45 p.m. - 4 p.m.

Breakout Sessions

Plotkin Chapel

Pluralism in Israel and the Diaspora—Are We Listening to Each Other?

What does Jewish identity look like in Israel? And in America? Do questions of observance and pluralism that concern American Jews register with Israelis? How are American models of religious pluralism compatible/not compatible with Israeli society?

Panelists: Chaya Gilboa (Shalom Hartman Institute), Uri Regev, Yuvi Tashomi-Katz, Dani Segal (Shalom Hartman Institute)

Moderator: Glenn Sonnenberg



Zeldin-Hershenson Hall

Israel and Jews in Social Media

Shock and awe vs. changing minds with 280 characters. The free-wheeling character and radically disruptive democracy of social media provides a platform for widespread advocacy for Israel as well as dangerous slander. How to have difficult conversations and civil debates when social media seems to divide us so deeply?

Panelists: Carly Pildis, Esther Kustanowitz, Batya Ungar-Sargon

Moderator: Rabbi Yoshi Zweiback (Senior Rabbi, Stephen Wise Temple)

Udco Annex

Israel Policy Pod Live Podcast Recording

On March 2, Israelis will head to the polls for the third time in the span of one year. This time around, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu is under indictment for three charges, left and right-wing parties are merging, and calls for Jordan Valley annexation are at the forefront of this Israeli election cycle. To understand what this means for Israel's voters, Join Israel Policy Forum's live podcast recording.

Host: Evan Gottesman (Associate Director of Policy and Communications, Israel Policy Forum)

Panelists: Yehuda Kurtzer, Liron Lavi (Y&S Nazarian Center for Israel Studies), and Shanie Reichman (Deputy Director of IPF Atid)

4:15 p.m. – 6 p.m.

Closing Plenary

Sanctuary

Presenting Israel to the World: Israel's Entertainment Industry and Israel's Public Image.

What are the considerations for Israel supporters in the entertainment industry when bringing Israeli media to a wider audience? How do critical yet critically acclaimed productions reflect on Israel's society, its strengths and challenges? What is the effect of this kind of publicity on Israel's public image?

Panelists: Rachel Kaplan (Executive VP, Scripted, Keshet Media), Yehonatan Indursky (writer, producer, *Shtisel*), Ayelet Zurer (*Transparent*, *Daredevil*, *Shtisel*)

Sponsored by Lori and Rob Goodman

6 p.m. – 8 p.m.

Young Professionals After-Event

Taub Annex

Sponsored by Israel Policy Forum Atid, Wise YAD, IKAR, URJ, ARZA, and Temple Judea of Tarzana

Join IPF Atid for a post-conference reception with facilitated discussions to debrief the topics mentioned throughout the day. We will be joined by many of the speakers from the conference.

Next Steps: What You Can Do Now to Further the Mission of Z3

Read these steps and take action at WiseLA.org/Z3

1. Vote in the WZO elections

It is critical that our voices are heard and represented in the World Zionist Congress which is the diaspora voice for expenditures of some public money in Israel. At Wise, we encourage a vote for the Reform Slate which includes the ARZA Zionists associations.

2. Support organizations that promote pluralism.

A range of organizations are devoted to pluralistic ideals and constructive diaspora/Israel relations. Your support is a voice of confidence in their mission and reinforces the Z3 values of diversity, unity, engagement. Of course, your support of the Z3 movement is essential. Learn more at www.z3project.org.

3. Keep an open mind for Zionist organizations that have views different from your own (and take the time to listen to them, even if you don't agree).

This is perhaps the most difficult challenge of all. We are passionate about the causes we support and for whom we advocate. When encountering an organization that differs in approach or vision from our own, Z3 values encourage us to offer acceptance as part of the vast range of Zionist, pro-Jewish identity choices that exist in our world.



 **#VoteReformWZC**
World Zionist Congress Election
January 21 - March 11, 2020

**VOTE FROM YOUR
PHONE IN SECONDS**
FOR THE WORLD ZIONIST CONGRESS ELECTION!

For step-by-step instructions on how to vote, visit ARZA.org/Election

SPEAKERS



Zack Bodner joined the Oshman Family JCC as the CEO in August of 2013. Under Zack's leadership, the JCC completed construction of the campus, transforming it into a community-gathering space where it is filled with people of all ages and backgrounds at all hours of the day. Zack also oversaw the creation of a new Center for Social Impact, which is committed to helping repair the world through initiatives that address poverty, homelessness, disaster relief, multi-culturalism, civic responsibility and more. The JCC also launched the Taube Center for Jewish Peoplehood, which now hosts the Architects of the Jewish Future Series and sponsors the Judaism Unbound podcast. Additionally, under Zack's leadership, the JCC began hosting an annual conference called "Zionism 3.0," and launched the Z3 Movement globally to change the paradigm on relations between Israel and World Jewry.

Before joining the JCC, Zack served for 14 years as the Pacific Northwest Regional Director of the American Israel Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC), where he oversaw a period of unprecedented growth in community outreach, political advocacy and fundraising.

Zack is an accomplished speaker and writes for publications throughout the U.S. and Israel, including a regular Blog for *The Times of Israel*. Zack holds a master's degree in Philosophy of Religion and Theology from Claremont Graduate University. He earned his Bachelor's degree from Yale University, where he played varsity soccer. Additionally, he spent a semester studying at Hebrew University in Jerusalem and recently participated in Stanford Business School's prestigious program for Executives in Non-Profit Leadership.

Zack currently serves on the Boards of JCCA of North America, YPO SF Bay Chapter, American Friends of Tel Aviv University Northern California, and the Taube Family Foundation. He lives in Los Altos with his wife Ronit and their three children, Talia, Elie and Orly.

Tamar Forman is new to California. Born and raised in Israel, she is trained as an informal educator and worked for twenty years as a guide and educator for groups visiting Israel. She is a graduate of the Hebrew University's Anthropology and Jewish Studies departments. Tamar is trained as a potter and opened her own studio outside Jerusalem after working and studying for over a decade in studios both in Jerusalem and in Hong Kong. She has used her education background, training in art therapy, and ceramics skills to teach and design programs at Jerusalem's Cancer Society Support Center, at the Jerusalem Rehabilitation Pre-School for children with special needs, for Birthright Israel programs, community center education programs, and many other educational frameworks. Tamar and her husband, Rabbi Michael Schwartz, are the parents of four children: Yami (18), Yarden (16), Zohar (12), and David (7).

Chaya Gilboa is a faculty member of the Shalom Hartman Institute of North America, and the Director of Jewish Engagement at Leichtag Foundation where she is responsible for Jewish integration and education.

Prior to joining Leichtag, Chaya was the Founding Director of Hevruta, a pluralistic, integrated gap-year program for Israeli and North American post-high school students at the Shalom Hartman Institute in Jerusalem, and scholar-in-residence at Paideia: The European Institute for Jewish Studies in Sweden, where she developed the innovative Experiential European Jewish Educators Program and held seminars and workshops on Jewish education.

Chaya was born in Jerusalem to an ultra-Orthodox family. She has B.A. in Jewish Philosophy from Ben Gurion University and an M.A. in Public Policy from Hebrew University, where she wrote her thesis on Haredi women, religion and state. She is committed to creating alternatives within the realm of religion and state, establishing Hashgacha Pratit, an alternative kashrut system and active in crafting egalitarian wedding ceremonies and other initiatives that combine feminism and Jewish identity.



Zack Bodner



Tamar Forman



Chaya Gilboa



Evan Gottesman

Evan Gottesman is Associate Director of Policy and Communications at Israel Policy Forum, where he hosts Israel Policy Pod and edits the Israel Policy Exchange blog. His work has been published by *Foreign Policy*, *Haaretz*, *The National Interest*, *The Diplomat*, *World Policy Journal*, *The Jerusalem Post*, and ETH Zurich's Center for Security Studies. Evan is from New Jersey and attended Rutgers University.



Marc Graboff

Marc Graboff is a 30-year veteran television industry executive focusing primarily on the business side of the business. He was head of business affairs at CBS, then at NBC and ultimately became co-chair of NBC Entertainment in 2007 until he left in 2012. He went on to run a production company that was ultimately merged into Endemol-Shine and, since 2015 he has been president of business/legal affairs and Discovery Studios at Discovery Communications (parent to networks worldwide, including Discovery Channel, TLC, Animal Planet, HGTV, Food Network and OWN).



Gidi Grinstein

Gidi Grinstein is the Founder and President of The Reut Institute, a Tel-Aviv based nonprofit and nonpartisan institution, described by Tom Friedman of the New York Times as "Israel's premier strategy group." Gidi's first book *Flexigidity: The Invisible Hand of Jewish Adaptability* was published in 2013.

Reut, which Gidi conceived of, established and leads, aspires to be the most effective non-governmental institution in advancing Israel's societal innovation and ensuring Israel's security and prosperity within the framework of 21st Century Zionism. Gidi is very proud of the role that he played in designing the Birthright Israel Program between 1995 and 1999, when he established and led the Israeli Team, that transformed the original vision into a model that is now- the largest and most successful project in the Jewish World.

Between 1999 and 2001 Gidi served as the Secretary and Coordinator of the Israeli delegation to the Peace Negotiations with the PLO in the Bureau of Prime Minister Ehud Barak. In his capacity, he participated in the 2000 Camp David Summit and in the negotiations on the Clinton Ideas. Prior hereto, Gidi worked in the Economic Cooperation Foundation.

Gidi is married to Betty and they are parents to five children. He is a long-distance runner, who ran half and full Marathons in Jerusalem, Tel-Aviv, Boston, New York and Los Angeles, and is now training to qualify as a 'Marathon Maniac'. In addition, he holds a Second Degree Black Belt in Karate.



Award-winning writer and director, **Yehonatan Indursky** is a graduate of the elite ultra-Orthodox Ponevezh Yeshiva, and later a top alum of the Jerusalem Sam Spiegel Film School.

He wrote and created, with Ori Elon, the esteemed drama series *Shtisel*, which won 17 Israeli Academy of Television awards. The series is currently an international hit on Netflix.

His full-length documentary *Ponevezh Time*, competed at the was nominated for Best Documentary Film at the Israeli Academy Awards. *Driver* (2018), his first full-length film, won the Israeli Critics Award. Indursky wrote and directed the series *Autonomies*, which received rave reviews and won Reflet d'Or for "Best International Television Series" in Geneva International Film Festival. *Autonomies* imagines an ultra-Orthodox autonomy in Jerusalem that is surrounded by a wall, and operates strictly in accordance with Halachic laws. Indursky's short film *The Cantor and the Sea*, won The best director prize in Jerusalem Film Festival 2015.



Yehonatan Indursky

Yuvi Tashome-Katz is a social entrepreneur and an activist who made aliya to Israel from Ethiopia in 1984 at the age of 7 after a long, perilous journey through the Sudan desert. Her fascinating story was featured in 2010 in a children's book, *Yuvi's Candy Tree*, available in Hebrew and in English.

In 2011, on Israel's 63rd Independence Day, Yuvi was one of a handful of Israelis chosen to light a torch in the national Yom Ha'azmaut ceremony at Mount Herzl in Jerusalem. Later that year she was awarded the Prime Minister's Prize for Initiatives and Innovation and the Matanel Prize for Groundbreaking Leadership.

Yuvi's remarkable journeys - from Ethiopia to Israel, and from a marginalized position in Israeli society to its highest awards - were paved with her singular vision, tremendous strength, determination and persistent hard work.

In over 20 years, Yuvi has been involved in a variety of educational programs and community action work in Israel and abroad. She started right after completing an IDF service, as a counselor in Camp Ramah and Camp Tawonga where she learned about the rich cultural dimensions of Jewish life in the United States. After returning to Israel, Yuvi served as an instructor and a coordinator in the Society for Nature Protection's multicultural project, and managed the Sorek Field School, and developed a leadership training program for at-risk youth. Yuvi also worked as an instructor, leader and a program developer at the Mandel Leadership Institute. In 2005, Yuvi co-founded Friends by Nature: Community Empowerment (FBN) that builds "Garinim" - community action groups composed of families and young adults, Ethiopian and non-Ethiopian, who share a vision and educational goals and choose to live in neglected neighborhoods with high rates of Ethiopian inhabitants in towns and cities in Israel's social and geographic periphery. The first Garin was established by Yuvi and her friends in Gedera and was led by her for over 8 years. Since FBN's has expanded and is currently operating Garinim in 8 localities, serving as a model of tolerance, mutual respect, and inclusiveness. In 2013 Yuvi became a Local Council Member in Gedera.

Today, Yuvi serves as Chairwoman and volunteer CEO of FBN and continues to be instrumental in the neighborhood programs. She is an active volunteer and guide in seminars on identity, organic farming, family, and the narrative of Ethiopian Jews. She also works as a program developer and leader at the Green Environment Network, and as an independent consultant and instructor. In addition, she leads a Placemaking program that brings together women from all walks of life.



Yuvi Tashome Katz



Rachel Kaplan

As EVP & Head of Scripted at Keshet Studios, **Rachel Kaplan** develops, produces and packages content for the US and international marketplaces. During her five years with the studio, Rachel has acted as Executive Producer on numerous series including *Our Boys* (HBO), *The Baker and the Beauty* (ABC), *Lincoln Rhyme: Hunt for the Bone Collector* (NBC), *The Brave* (NBC), *Wisdom of the Crowd* (CBS); as well as the pilots *Skinny Dip* (CW, Quibi), *Suspicion* (NBC), and *Salamander* (ABC). Having worked with many A-list showrunners, creators and filmmakers, Rachel previously served as a partner at TBD Entertainment; EVP, television, Brillstein Entertainment Partners; and VP, drama development, Warner Bros Television, where she developed and sold over 100 drama projects, 18 of which were picked up to series. They include *Chuck* (NBC), *Gossip Girl* (CW), *Men in Trees* (ABC), *Close to Home* (CBS) and *The OC* (FOX). A University of Pennsylvania graduate, Rachel began her career in TV as an independent producer.



Michael Koplow

Michael Koplow is the Policy Director of the Israel Policy Forum. Before coming to Israel Policy Forum, he was the founding Program Director of the Israel Institute. He holds a Ph.D. in Government from Georgetown University, where he specialized in political development and ideology, and the politics of Middle Eastern states. He writes Israel Policy Forum's weekly Koplow Column and edits the Israel Policy Exchange, which is a leading source for commentary and analysis on Israel and American Jewry, and his work regularly appears in *Foreign Affairs*, *Foreign Policy*, *the Atlantic*, and *the Forward*, among other publications. In addition to his Ph.D., he holds a B.A. from Brandeis University, a J.D. from New York University, and an A.M. in Middle Eastern Studies from Harvard University.



Yehuda Kurtzer

Dr. Yehuda Kurtzer is the President of the Shalom Hartman Institute of North America. Yehuda is a leading thinker and author on the meaning of Israel to American Jews, on Jewish history and Jewish memory, and on questions of leadership and change in American Jewish life.

Yehuda led the creation of the Shalom Hartman Institute of North America in 2010 as a pioneering research and educational center for the leadership of the North American Jewish community, and teaches in its many platforms for rabbis, lay leaders, Jewish professionals, and leaders of other faith communities. He is also the co-creator of the Shalom Hartman Institute's iEngage Project, which seeks to bridge between Israel and world Jewry through content, curriculum, and cutting-edge educational programs.

Yehuda received his doctorate in Jewish Studies from Harvard University and an MA in Religion from Brown University, and is an alumnus of both the Bronfman Youth and Wexner Graduate Fellowships. Previously Yehuda served as faculty member at Brandeis University where he held the inaugural Chair in Jewish Communal Innovation.

He is the author of *Shuva: The Future of the Jewish Past*, which offers new thinking to contemporary Jews on navigating the tensions between history and memory; and the co-editor of the forthcoming volume *The New Jewish Canon*, a collection of the most significant Jewish ideas and debates of the past two generations.

He lives in New York with his wife Stephanie Ives and their three children.



Esther Kustanowitz is a Contributing Writer at the *Jewish Journal* of Greater Los Angeles, where she writes on topics ranging from comedy to grief, from women in Jewish leadership to social media culture; and is a TV columnist at *J.: The Jewish News of Northern California*. Esther was also the founding editor at GrokNation.com, a blog and web community founded by actress, neuroscientist and mom Mayim Bialik.

Esther is frequently sought-out as a source on social media engagement and culture, and is known as one of the Jewish nonprofit world's social influencers. Most recently, she was named to JTA's list of influencers on Jewish Twitter.

Esther has also consulted for and spoken at dozens of organizations and institutions in New York, Los Angeles and Israel, including The Jewish Federation of Greater Los Angeles, the ROI Community, IKAR, the American Jewish University, Yeshiva University, Slingshot, Limmud, UpStart Bay Area and the Jewish Federations of North America. She writes for publications like *Haaretz*, *Forward*, and *eJewishPhilanthropy*, blogs at *MyUrbanKvetch.com*, and advises individuals and nonprofit organizations on the culture and effective use of social media. Esther is also known for helping people to create and cultivate relationships and networks, particularly collaborations between innovative initiatives and community organizations.

She has authored one book, *The Hidden Children* of the Holocaust, and contributed to many others. She is working on a book about grief and life after loss called *Nothing Helps (But This Might Help)*.

She served as founding senior editor for *Presentense Magazine* from 2006-2008 and wrote "First Person Singular," a biweekly singles column for the *New York Jewish Week*, from 2004-2008.

Esther has taken numerous classes in sketch-comedy writing and improv in New York and Los Angeles, and has also served as karaoke hostess/emcee for Jewish organizational talent shows and karaoke events.

Ilana Kwartin was born in the Former Soviet Union and made Aliyah in 1987. She grew up in Jerusalem and served as a commander and officer in an IDF field intelligence unit, including service deep in the Gaza Strip. Afterward, Ilana earned B.A. degrees in Law and Psychology from the Hebrew University of Jerusalem and an M.A. in Conflict Resolution from the Ben Gurion University of the Negev. Ilana has a Ph.D. in Gender Studies from Bar-Ilan University, after researching "Honor-based Confinement" among married women in Israel.

Ilana's professional career began in corporate law, but upon moving to Israel's south in 2009, she became an activist, working specifically toward women's rights. In addition to running her own legal practice specializing in women's rights in the workplace and family, Ilana for many years has taught Zumba to women and young girls, both in Israel's southern periphery and to at-risk populations, as a means to self-empowerment.

Currently, Ilana is the Regional Director, Western United States, for the Jewish Agency for Israel, overseeing departments including *shlichim* (emissaries), *Aliyah* (immigration), partnerships and strategy. Before moving to Los Angeles with her family, Ilana was Vice President and Head of Resource Development at *Eretz-Ir*, an organization that develops urban communities in Israel's periphery via entrepreneurship and employment centers. Ilana also lectures on the convergence of Law and Gender and on Social Entrepreneurship.

She helped found and is a resident-from-afar in Eliav, a community for Secular and Orthodox in the Judean foothills. There, she co-founded an inclusive, Orthodox minyan (*Minyan Meshatef*) and more recently founded a shared working space and business network in her community to bolster entrepreneurship and self-employment in her local region.

Ilana is married to BG, a tour guide and educator, and mother of four children: Tamara, Yoav, Ivri and Arava.



Esther Kustanowitz



Ilana Kwartin



Liron Lavi

Liron Lavi is a Research Fellow at the Y&S Nazarian Center for Israel Studies. She received her PhD in Political Science in 2017 from Tel-Aviv University, where she studied the role of time in elections and democracy in Israel. During her doctoral research, Liron was also a Visiting Graduate Researcher at the Y&S Nazarian Center and UCLA's Department of Political Science from 2015 to 2017. Her doctoral work earned her the Best Dissertation Award from the Israeli Political Science Association in May 2018.

Liron's research interests include political communication; elections and democracy; Israeli politics; philosophy of time; and national identity. Her current work focuses on the 2015 and 2019 Israeli elections and the 2016 U.S. elections as she studies the effect of new media on democracy and its legitimacy. Liron is the recipient of the 2013 Warren E. Miller Scholarship and the Faculty of Social Science Dean Excellence Award in 2007, 2010, and 2013. Her research has been presented in international meetings including the Israeli, the Western and the American Political Science Associations and published in top academic journals, including *Nations and Nationalism* and *Political Studies*.



Rabbi Aaron Lerner

Rabbi Aaron Lerner is passionate about creating inclusive and empowered Jewish community. He believes that Jewish tradition enriches and informs every aspect of life, and particularly enjoys encouraging college students to apply Jewish values as they grapple with life's major questions during their most formative years.

During his time at Hillel at UCLA, Rabbi Aaron Lerner has helped expand Hillel's leadership training program to include approximately 150 student leaders who reach nearly 1,800 Jewish students every year at UCLA. He has also played a key role in Israel advocacy and education on campus and in the national arena.

A Wexner Graduate Fellow, Aaron received ordination from Yeshivat Chovevei Torah with an emphasis in education. Prior to entering the world of education, Aaron worked for more than a decade in commercial real estate finance after graduating from USC's Marshall School of Business.



Charles Levinson

Charles Levinson lived in and reported on the Middle East from 2002-2014, covering the major military and political conflicts of the era, first as editor of the *Cairo Times*, and later as a Mideast Correspondent and Jerusalem Bureau Chief for *The Wall Street Journal*. He covered Iraq's slide into civil war and the subsequent U.S. military "surge." He covered Hamas' 2006 victory in Palestinian elections and the bloody internecine Palestinian power struggle that followed. He covered a decade of Israeli wars from both sides of the battle lines, embedded with IDF forces during Israel's operations to free captured soldier Gilad Shalit, and later, reporting deep in southern Lebanon alongside Hezbollah fighters, during Israel's month-long 2006 campaign against the Shiite militants. He covered Netanyahu's return to power in 2009 and accompanied the Israeli leader on his first official visit to Washington to meet with then President Obama. After the eruption of the Arab Spring, Charles spent two years following the democratic upheavals and bloody crackdowns throughout the region, reporting from Tunisia, Egypt, Libya, Syria, and Bahrain. He marched alongside Egyptian protest leaders as they first seized Tahrir Square and was among the first Western reporters to cross into Eastern Libya, freshly liberated from Gadhafi's clutches. Since 2014 he has worked as an NY-based investigative reporter for Reuters, where he won several prestigious national journalism awards for his reporting on international banking, Guantanamo Bay, and criminal justice. He left Reuters in October 2019 to help launch the investigative unit of *Protocol*, a new publication covering technology.

SPEAKERS



Dr. Tomer Persico is a research fellow and Scholar in Residence of the Shalom Hartman Institute based in the San Francisco Bay Area, and Koret Visiting Assistant Professor of Jewish and Israel Studies at U.C. Berkeley.

Dr. Persico is a social activist advocating for freedom of religion in Israel. A leading thinker about secularization, Jewish Renewal and forms of contemporary spirituality, Persico writes the most popular blog in Hebrew on these subjects and has published articles in the *Washington Post* and *Haaretz* (English) as well as numerous other Israeli newspapers and periodicals.

He is a Research Fellow at the Shalom Hartman Institute in Jerusalem, and formerly taught in the department of Comparative Religion at Tel Aviv University.

Here is an interview with Dr. Persico in English about his work. He is also the author of *The Jewish Meditative Tradition* (Hebrew, Tel Aviv University Press, 2016), a critically acclaimed book about the cultural history of Jewish meditation.



Tomer Persico

Carly Pildis currently serves as Senior Associate, Advocacy and Organizing, for RESULTS and as a Contributing Editor for *Tablet Magazine*.

After graduating from Bennington College in 2007, she moved to New Hampshire and hit the campaign trail with American Jewish World Service, engaging presidential primary candidates and members of Congress on a variety of global justice issues including the crisis in Darfur, international access to basic education, cancellation of odious debt for Global South countries, and the global HIV/AIDS crisis.

She joined Obama for America in 2012 as a Phone Bank Coordinator based in D.C. She was promoted to Director of Jewish Outreach for Obama For America D.C., organizing Jewish efforts around the city including Shabbat Dinners, phone banks, canvassing and the joint African Americans for Obama and Jewish Americans for Obama Voting Rights Seder. She was promoted again to Operation Vote Director, overseeing outreach to various constituency groups including African Americans, Jewish Americans, LGBT Americans, Muslim Americans, Latinx Americans, and Women for Obama.

In 2013, she was thrilled to land her dream job at RESULTS, a grassroots anti-poverty advocacy organization. She designed and now manages the REAL Change Organizing and Advocacy Fellowship to Fight Poverty, an advocacy training program for young people between the ages of 18 and 30.

Carly has written for *Tablet*, *Forward*, *The Jewish Chronicle* and *PolicyMic*. She joined *Tablet* as a Contributing Editor in 2019.

In her free time Carly enjoys writing, engaging in Jewish Twitter, and making Shabbat with her family. She will never stop rooting for Boston sports teams, no matter how long she lives in D.C.



Carly Pildis



Uri Regev

Rabbi Uri Regev is an internationally renowned leader and advocate of religious liberty and pluralism. Rabbi Regev serves as the President and CEO of an educational and advocacy Israel-Diaspora partnership, “Hiddush - Freedom of Religion for Israel”, which he founded in 2009. He served as president of the World Union for Progressive Judaism [2002-2008], a global umbrella organization of the Progressive, Reform, Liberal and Reconstructionist movements, serving communities in 42 countries on six continents. Rabbi Regev also served [1986-2001] as founding chair, and later as executive director and legal counsel, of the Israel Religious Action Center (IRAC), the public and advocacy arm of the Reform movement in Israel. In that capacity, he led the IRAC’s legal team to historic victories in the Israeli Supreme Court in cases involving many central issues of religious pluralism and human equality. A cum laude graduate of Tel Aviv University Law School and the Hebrew Union College-Institute of Religion in Jerusalem, where he was ordained in 1986, Rabbi Regev served in the IDF as an assistant legal advisor in the Gaza Strip and Sinai and as the military prosecutor of the Israeli Navy. He retired from military service with the rank of Lieutenant Colonel.



Jodi Rudoren

Jodi Rudoren became Editor-in-Chief of *The Forward*, the nation’s oldest independent Jewish news organization, in September after more than two decades as a reporter and editor at *The New York Times*. She is helping lead a transformation of the storied 123-year-old institution, a nonprofit that went digital-only earlier this year,

At *The Times*, Jodi served as Jerusalem bureau chief from 2012 through 2015, covering two Israeli elections, two wars in Gaza, the failed Kerry peace talks, the fallout from the Iran nuclear deal, and numerous terror attacks. She previously covered the 2004 American presidential campaign, and served as Chicago bureau chief, education correspondent and education editor, and deputy on both the Metropolitan and International desks, before joining the masthead as Associate Managing Editor for Audience Strategy.

A longtime digital innovator, Jodi was executive producer of the multimedia series “One in 8 Million,” which won *NYTimes.com*’s first Emmy Award, in 2009, and served on the 2020 committee about the newsroom of the future. She also serves on the Board of Directors of the Fuller Project, a nonprofit newsroom doing groundbreaking investigative work on issues that affect women.

Jodi grew up in Newton, Mass., and graduated cum laude in 1992 from Yale University, where she was Managing Editor of *The Yale Daily News*. She and her husband, Gary, combined their surnames in 2006 and live in Montclair, NJ, with their twins, who turned 12 in September.



Batya Ungar Sargon

Dr. Batya Ungar Sargon is an award-winning journalist and the opinion editor for *The Forward*. Her work has appeared in the *New York Times*, *Washington Post*, *LA Times*, and *Foreign Policy*. Batya is a prolific writer and has become an influential voice among American Jewish progressives, curating a diverse group of writers as well as writing her own column in response to breaking news developments impacting the Jewish community, Israel, and American politics. She holds a Ph.D. from the University of California, Berkeley.

SPEAKERS



Dani Segal is co-director of the Shalom Hartman Institute and HaMidrasha at Oranim's Beit Midrash for New Israeli Rabbis, of which he is a graduate.

He attended the Har Etzion Hesder Yeshiva and served as a paratrooper in the IDF. Rabbi Segal is a founding member of the Ein Prat Academy of Leadership, an educational secular-religious program for pre- and post-army participants, and is the founder and director of Desert Premarital Retreats, specializing in communication in marriage.

In 2014, Rabbi Segal spent a year in New York as a Tikvah Fellow, teaching at Drisha and speaking at communities in the New York area.

He holds a BA in Hebrew Literature from The Hebrew University of Jerusalem, rabbinic ordination from the office of the Chief Rabbinate of Israel, and is pursuing an MA in Hebrew Literature.



Dani Segal

Glenn Sonnenberg is President of Latitude Management Real Estate Investors, Inc., managing institutional and high net worth capital in real estate investments throughout the United States. Mr. Sonnenberg serves on the Board of Directors and Executive Committees of Bet Tzedek—the House of Justice, Para los Niños, and he is a Past President of Stephen Wise Temple. He is a Governor's appointee to the Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum Commission, serves on the Board of Directors of the Jewish Federation of Greater Los Angeles and of Hillcrest Country Club and serves as President of the USC Friends of the Libraries (producers of the annual Scriptor Award). Glenn is co-chair of the annual USC Law School Forum on Real Estate Law and Business and serves on the Board of Councilors of the Law School and the College of Letters, Arts and Sciences. Glenn was awarded the Bet Tzedek Founder's Award in 2009 and a USC Alumni Award in 2006.



Glenn Sonnenberg

David Suissa is President of Tribe Media/*Jewish Journal*, where he has been writing a weekly column on the Jewish world since 2006. In 2015, he was awarded first prize for "Editorial Excellence" by the American Jewish Press Association. Prior to Tribe Media, David was founder and CEO of Suissa Miller Advertising, a marketing firm named "Agency of the Year" by *USA Today*. He sold his company in 2006 to devote himself full time to his first passion: Israel and the Jewish world. David was born in Casablanca, Morocco, grew up in Montreal, and now lives in Los Angeles with his five children.



David Suissa



Josh Weinberg

Rabbi Josh Weinberg serves as the Vice President for Israel and Reform Zionism for the Union of Reform Judaism and the Director of ARZA, the Association of Reform Zionists of America. He was ordained from the HUC-JIR Israeli Rabbinic Program in Jerusalem and is currently living in New York. Josh has previously served in many different roles in the Jewish world including as the Director of the Israel program for the Reconstructionist Rabbinical College and as a faculty member of NFTY's Heller High School in Israel teaching Jewish History. Josh came on Aliyah to Israel in 2003, is a reserve officer in the IDF spokesperson's unit, and has hiked the Israel-trail.

Originally from Chicago, he has a B.A. from University of Wisconsin in Hebrew Literature, Political Science and International Relations, and studied for an M.A. at the Hebrew University in Jewish Education.

Josh has taught and lectured widely throughout Israel, the U.S. and Europe, as well as on Kivunim and Shnat Netzer gap-year programs. He has led numerous tours and trained tour educators for the Reform movement's Israel experiences. In addition to being a STorahtelling "Mayven," Josh has a passion for the environment and spends lots of time outdoors hiking and climbing, playing music and volleyball. Josh is passionate about anything connected to Israel and hopes to strengthen the connection between the Reform movement and the Jewish State. He is married to Mara Getz Sheftel, and is the proud abba of Noa, Ella, Mia, and Alma.



Ayelet Zurer

Ayelet Zurer first garnered the attention of American audiences when Steven Spielberg cast her in the Oscar nominated film *Munich*. Zurer went on to star opposite Tom Hanks in the worldwide box office hit *Angels and Demons*, directed by Ron Howard, and opposite Russell Crowe in *Man of Steel*, directed by Zack Snyder. One of Israel's most acclaimed actresses, Zurer won the Israeli Film Academy Award for her starring role as the title character in *Nina's Tragedies*. She also won two Israeli Television Academy Awards for Best Actress: one for *In Treatment* (later adapted by HBO), and for *B'nei Aruba* (adapted by CBS into *Hostages*), for which she also won the Golden Nymph Award at Monte Carlo, Europe's television award. Most recently Zurer has won acclaim for her role as Elisheva in the Netflix hit TV show *Shtisel*, for which she was nominated for Israeli Academy Award. Her lead role in the film *Milada* earned her a nomination for best leading actress in the Czech lions awards.



Sivan Zakai

Sivan Zakai is the Sara S. Lee Assistant Professor of Jewish Education at the Rhea Hirsch School of Education at HUC-JIR's Skirball Campus in Los Angeles. A thought leader in Jewish education, her areas of expertise include curriculum design, history education, Israel education, and teaching controversial issues. Dr. Zakai serves as the Director of the Children's Learning About Israel Project and co-Director of Project Orli: Research and Leadership in Israel Education.



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CENTER FOR JEWISH LIFE

presents



Yousef Bashir
Author of
The Words of my Father
in Dialogue with
Rabbi David Woznica

Tuesday, February 18
7:30 p.m

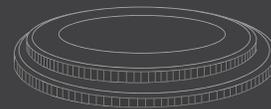
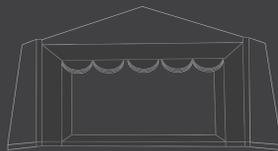
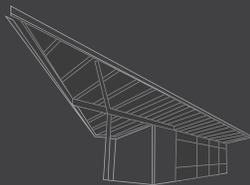
Yousef Bashir is a Palestinian-American from the Gaza Strip, the son of Khalil Bashir, a highly respected educator. Still suffering the effects of a near catastrophic injury at the hands of an anonymous IDF soldier, Yousef made his way to the United States where he became an accomplished author, a vigorous advocate of Israeli-Palestinian peace, and much sought-after public speaker. Learn his incredible life story as he speaks with Rabbi David Woznica about his passion for peace.

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